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# STAN LEE PRESENTS MARVEL AGE

# SALICRUP'S SECTION

Whoops! In case you were wondering why I was turned into a turkey, in my little caricature last month, it was that I forgot to acknowledge the sensational seventh anniversary of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE! Can you believe it? What other magazine dedicated to a single comics company has ever lasted so long? And can you believe I've been editing this humble little mag since our sixth issue? I certainly can't. Let's hope that the best is yet to come as we zoom into the nineties!

And speaking of which, I'm saddened to inform you that this is our last 75¢ issue. But if you act right now, and send in the handy coupon on this page, you can still take advantage of our current low subscription price and SAVE, SAVE, SAVE!

For an even better deal, check out the subscription ads in this month's comics. You can order one title at the regular rates but get 50% off on each additional title you order! But you better hurry, this offer expires January 31, 1990!

Now it's time for NO-CONTEST #2! It's the sneakiest No-Contest of all. Here's what you got to do. Come up with an idea for an original No-Contest and we'll use all of the ones we like! What is a No-Contest? Where've you been? It's merely the latest craze to hit Marveldom Assembled right where it lives—whatever that means! All you've got to do is come up with a No-Contest idea which requires a bit of creativity to enter, not to mention, and fair knowledge of the Marvel Universe, and you've got it! And remember, the reason they're called "No-Contests" is because there are. . .No-Prizes! No-Contest means No-Prizes! Get it? Send your suggestions to MARVEL NO-CONTEST #2, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016.

*—Jim Salicrup*

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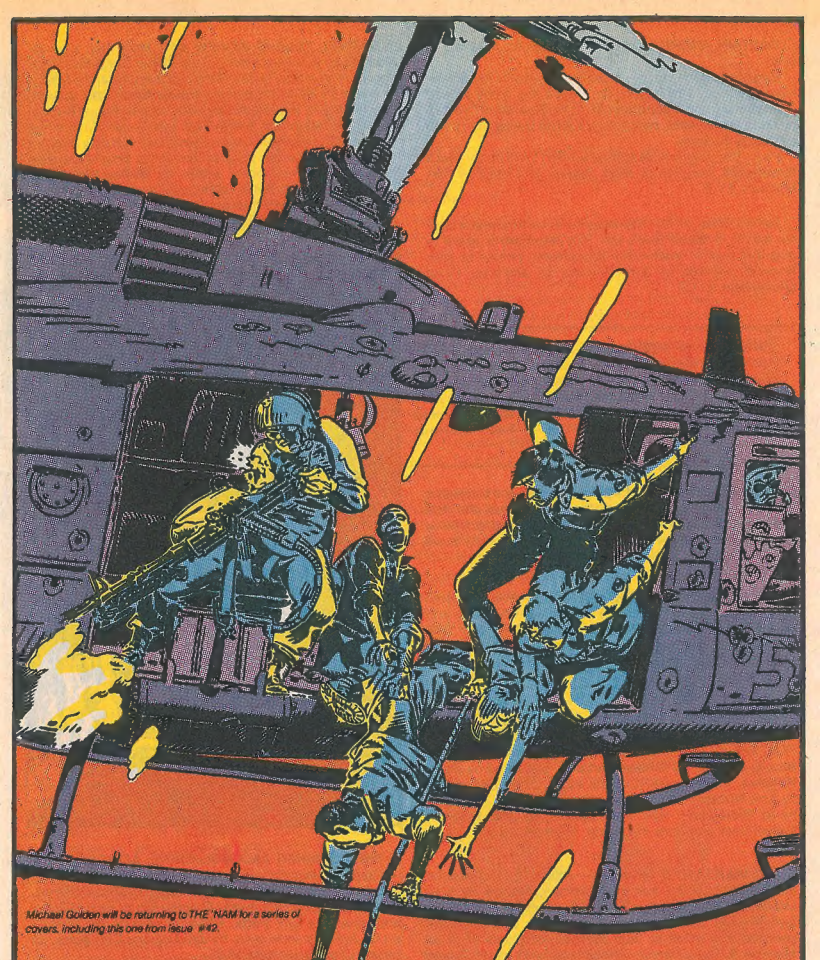


*Michael Golden will be returning to THE 'NAM for a series of covers, including this one from issue #42.*

# MARVEL® COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Here's a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic, and Marvel U.K. titles shipping in January.**

## Titles Shipping January 2
## On Sale January 23

☐ **AVENGERS WEST COAST #56**—It's happened! The **Scarlet Witch** is now the **Avengers'** sworn—and most dangerous—enemy! But if you think the battle between **Wanda** and the West Coast team is something, watch out for **Magneto** and **Immortus**! Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Paul Ryan**, $1.00.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #368—Two tales for the price of one!

**Magneto**'s gone crazy—attacking a peaceful mutant demonstration in Washington. So...how's this going to lead **Crossbones** and **Machinesmith** to the **Red Skull**? Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Danny Bulandi.**

Plus: the origin of **Machinesmith**! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Don Hudson.** $1.00.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #278—**Daredevil** and the **Inhumans** seek the secret of **Black Bolt**'s son. But **Mephisto** is about to stop that search dead—with **Blackheart**! Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson.** $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #62—**Liz Osborn**'s stepbrother—the **Molten Man**—is back and he wants $10,000 dollars from his sister! Sounds like a simple "Spidey to the rescue" story, right? Wrong! We can't tell you why, but you'll flip when you see the ending! Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams.** $1.00.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #259—**Dazzler** and **Colossus** are back—but they have no memory of who they are! And **Colossus** stands alone against the **Genoshans**! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jim Lee** and inked by **Scott Williams.** $1.00.

☐ **THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK** #13—The **She-Hulk** fights a foe that not even *she* can defeat when she and **Weezi** take a weekend vacation in Wildmoon, New York, "Village of the Darned!" Written by **Steve Gerber**, penciled by **Bryan Hitch** and inked by **Jim Sanders.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

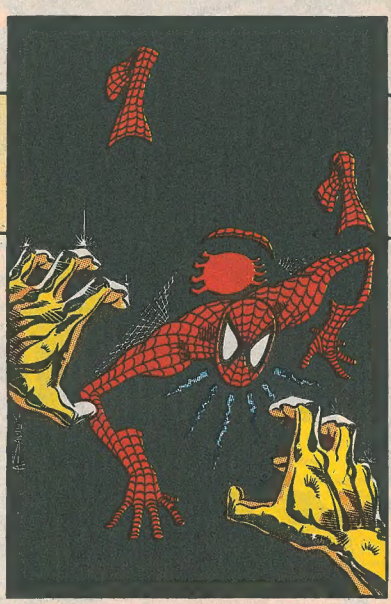
☐ **THE PUNISHER MAGAZINE** #8—Re-presenting one of the most popular **Punisher/Daredevil** confrontations! From THE PUNISHER #10, "The Creep" written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams.** And from DAREDEVIL #257, "The Bully" written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. New cover painting by **Joe Jusko.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **THE WAR Limited Series** #4—At last! The final chapter in the global conflict that will irrevocably change the New Universe! Love suspense? Love surprises? Then look no further—this one's a shocker! Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled and inked by **Tom Morgan** with color by **Paul Mounts.** A New Universe Graphic Album. 48 pages. Baxter paper. Direct Sales only. $3.50.

☐ **CRITICAL MASS Limited Series** #3—Two tales of the Shadowline Saga!

**Power Line** finally has a chance to kill their hated enemy, **Dirk Ravenscore.** But something forces them to spare his life. What could it be? The answer will astonish you! Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and drawn by **Gray Morrow.** Plus, as **Shreck** stalks **Michael Devlin**, the latest **St. George**, the **Abbot** of the Order of **St. George** dons his armor for the ultimate battle against **Doctor Zero!** And **Shreck** stalks the **St. George** knight! Written by **D.G. Chicester** and **Margaret Clark**, penciled by **Denys Cowan**, and inked by **Kent Williams.** An Epic Graphic Album Limited Series. 64 pages. Direct Sales only. $4.95.

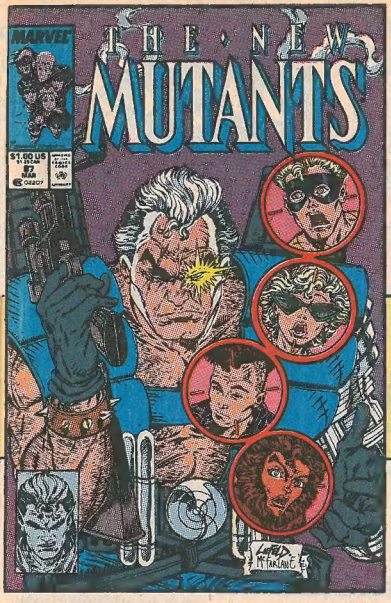
☐ **MARVEL YEAR-IN REVIEW** #1—More than a recap! More than a handy history! This "Time Magazine"-style special is an *insider's* view of the major events of the Marvel Universe in 1989! That's right, **Spider-Man**'s new powers, the shooting of **Tony Stark**, the return of the original **Human Torch**, the fate of the **X-Men**, and more—all told from the viewpoint of people who witnessed them! Not only that, but new facts will also be revealed! A must for Marvel Universe fans everywhere! Articles written by **Walter Simonson, Chris Claremont, Peter David,** and more, original art by **Mike Mignola, Herb Trimpe, Dale Keown,** and more. 48 pages. Baxter paper. $3.95.



☐ **THE PUNISHER AND WOLVERINE: AFRICAN SAGA**—Re-presenting the epic confrontation of the **Punisher** and **Wolverine** in Africa from PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #6 and #7 in the high quality Graphic Album format! Script and layouts by **Carl Potts**, additional layouts and finished art by **Jim Lee.** New cover by **Jim Lee** and **Carl Potts.** 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $5.95.

## Titles Shipping January 9th On Sale January 30th

☐ **ALF** #27—**ALF** finds himself lost at sea when his rocket ship accidentally ejects him far from the **Tanner** home! And it's one heck of a trek for **ALF** to get back to the **Tanner** household without being spotted! Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin.** $1.00.




☐ **NTH MAN** #10—The United States and Russia have launched their entire missile arensals at each other. These plague-filled rockets will impact in 21 minutes. And **Alfie O'Meagan**, the psychotic mutant who eliminated all nuclear warheads refuses to stop them! You think that just because this book is called NTH MAN and not ALFIE O'MEAGAN that **Nth Man**'s going to save the day? Well, here's a warning—don't make any quick bets on anyone! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Fred Fredericks**. $1.00.

☐ **AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT** #30—A new direction! A new writer! A new costume for **Hawkeye!** A full-length, 22-page story kicks off a new start for the Avenging archer. And it starts with a brutal disaster when **Hawkeye** is almost killed by Hollywood street gangs! Written by **Steve Gerber**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Don Heck**. Cover penciled by **Joe Jusko** and inked by **Stan Drake**. $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #87—**Rob Liefeld** debuts as the new regular penciler! The **New Mutants** begin their journey back to Earth, and they face a crucial decision about their future! Will they stay with **X-Factor**, or will they strike off on their own? Also introducing a new major character who will play an important role in the lives of the young heroes. Written by **Louise Simonson**, inked by **Bob Wiacek**. Cover penciled by **Rob Liefeld** and inked by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.00.

☐ **QUASAR** #8—**Quasar** returns to Project: Pegasus, the scene of his greatest failure, and confronts the all-consuming alien, **Omnivore**! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Mike Manley**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #45—**Heathcliff** is visited by a mutant space kid who ruins **Iggy's** science project and turns **Heathcliff's** life topsy turvy! Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #330—**Spider-Man** and the **Punisher** are both on the trail of a big-time drug dealer. You know how **Spidey** fights. You know how the **Punisher** fights. When the two meet, the result is *explosive*! Part 1 of 2, written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Erik Larsen** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #45—**Wolverine, Wonder Man, the Hulk,** and **Shooting Star** in four new stories!

WOLVERINE Part VIII—The origin of **Black Shadow/White Shadow**. And one of **Wolverine's** most desperate battles! Written by **Marv Wolfman** and drawn by **John Buscema**.

WONDER MAN Conclusion—**Wonder Man** gains the powers of all the **Avengers**—but at what cost? Written by **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Javier Saltares**, and inked by **Jose Marzan**.

And complete in this issue:

A group of alien children are playing video games. Sounds innocent enough. Trouble is, the prize is Earth. And the **Hulk** has to find a way to stop their game—and fast! Written and penciled by **Ron Wilson** and inked by **Tom Morgan**.

**Shooting Star**, the crackshot heroine from the **Rangers**, takes on a gang of banditos to save a group of kidnaped children. Written by **Robert Campanella**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Mike DeCarlo**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #82—It's the shocking conclusion to the "Quest for **Northstar**" saga! **Persuasion, Laura Dean**, and **Aurora** battle the dark elves in Asgard for the life of **Northstar**. But will the price they pay spell victory or horrifying defeat? Written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **John Calimee**, and inked by **Mike Manley**. Cover by **John Byrne**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

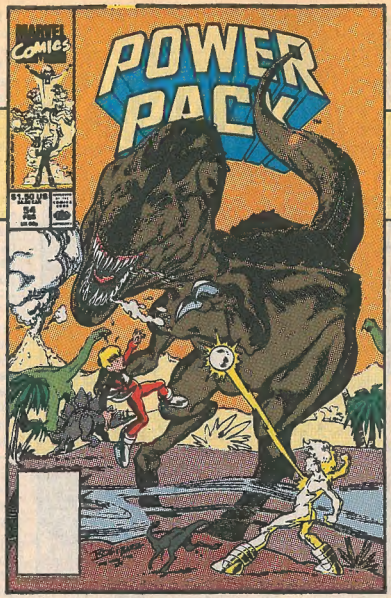
☐ **WOLVERINE** #22—It could be the most stunning mutant saga of the month! **Geist**'s illegal super hero formulae have cosmic consequences! And **Wolverine**'s about to find himself in a situation way out of his league! Written by **Archie Goodwin**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Klaus Janson**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

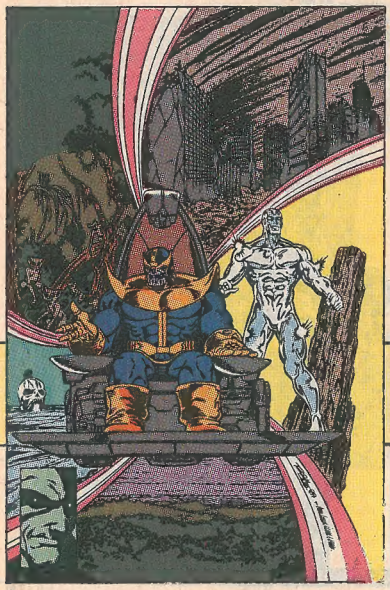
☐ **POWER PACK** #54—**Franklin** and **Jack** confront the **Mad Thinker**—and a pack of rampaging dinosaurs—in a Connecticut mall. And that's not even a *hint* of the mayhem that happens! Written by **Judy Bogdanove**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Hilary Barta**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #63—Look out! **Groo** meets his old friends (or are they foes?), **Pal** and **Drumm**. The chaos that results is epic! (ouch!) Written and drawn by **Sergio Aragonés** with an able assist by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #171—**Young Conan** is the quarry in a ruthless warlord's hunt. What fascinates the warlord is that **Conan** volunteered to be the quarry! Why did **Conan** volunteer? And how can **Conan** survive a hunt whose outcome has always seen the quarry dead? "Hunter's Moon" is written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Dave Hoover**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. Plus: penciler **Steve Carr** and inker **Al Williamson** present a special **King Kull** portfolio based on scenes from **Robert E. Howard** stories! A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. $2.25.

☐ **ELECTRIC UNDERTOW** #5—The final chapter! The **Moriturl** are prisoners of the alien **Ancient Ones!** The secret that compelled the aliens' invasion of Earth revealed! A shocker! Written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Carlos Garzón**. A Marvel Graphic Album Limited Series. 48 pages. Direct sales only. $3.95.



## Titles Shipping January 16th
## On Sale February 6th

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #315—**Spider-Man** guest-stars in the wildest tale this month! **Nebula** has destroyed the universe! Only the **Avengers**, **Spider-Man**, and **Nebula** are left! How can the **Avengers** force **Nebula** to restore the universe? Written by **John Byrne**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #230—**Conan** plays the part of a deadly emissary in a tale of fraternal malevolence, long distance assassination and sorcerous shenanigans. "In the Land of the Lotus" is the first part of a gripping two-part saga. Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Dwayne Turner** and inked by **Rod Ramos**. $1.00.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #35—**Thanos** is out to slay half the population of the universe. And **Thanos** has a way to make the **Silver Surfer** a key weapon in the destruction! Written by **Jim Starlin**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Tom Christopher**. $1.00.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #367—**Dale Keown** debuts as the new regular penciler! It's the conclusion to the "Countdown" saga—and it's a blockbuster! The **Leader**'s got a brother, his name is **Madman!** He's the maniac behind the "Countdown" catastrophe—and he's gonna be a villain you'll love to hate! Written by **Peter David** and inked by **Marie Severin**. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #98—The *real* **Cobra Commander** returns! **Billy's** back, too! **Fred VII** is up to his villanous tricks! And **G.I. Joe**. . .aw, why spoil the fun by telling you everything here? Check it out! You'll love it! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin.** $1.00

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #86—It's the *new* MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE! A new look! New features! The return of the Marvel Age Calendar! Spread the word! Now, more than ever, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is *the* magazine for Marvel Universe fans everywhere! $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #235—Re-presenting from MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL #1, the first two chapters of a special match-up with the **X-Men! Spidey** and the **X-Men** must stop a group of reincarnated super-beings who have assumed the identities of the Hindu gods. Their goal: destroy Earth! Written by **Chris Claremont** and **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Mike Esposito.** Plus an all-new **Spider-Ham** story written by **Glenn Herdling**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, and inked by **Joe Albeio**. $1.00.

☐ **POLICE ACADEMY** #7—When **Commandant Lassard's** pet goldfish is stolen, the **Police Academy** crew finds itself swept up in a madcap chase that leads them into the jungle where they encounter weird animals and the lord of the jungle himself, **Tarzed!** Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher.** $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #31—In Part One of a two-part tale, the **Punisher** goes undercover to infiltrate a biker gang out to dominate the drug trade in the American Southwest. Written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Bill Reinhold**, and inked by **Mark Farmer.** $1.00.

☐ **ROBOCOP** #1—Now a Marvel comic! And the saga picks up right where the hit movie left off! **RoboCop** and the company that created him, Omni Consumer Products, face a ruthless rival, NixCo, whose goal is control of Delta City—and the destruction of **RoboCop!** Written by **Alan Grant**, penciled by **Lee Sullivan**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder.** $1.50.

☐ **WHAT IF. . .?** #11—It's an alternate reality tour de force in "What If the **Fantastic Four** All Had the Same Powers?" Four stories ranging from fun to deadly serious make this the WHAT IF. . .? event of the season! Written and penciled by **Jim Valentino** and inked by **Jeff Albrecht, Chris Ivy, Hilary Barta,** and **Steve Montano.** 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **EXCALIBUR** #20—The "Cross-Time Caper" continues! **Kitty Pryde** is a crime boss in a megalopolis on a post-apocalyptic Earth. She's stuck in a turf war with the **Kingpin.** And then the *real* trouble begins! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Alan Davis**, and inked by **Paul Neary.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **SHIELD** #9—In Part 3 of the "Chaos Serpent Saga," **Leviathan** kidnaps **Lump** to help control his **Coven. Nick Fury** must rescue **Lump.** But **Fury** needs help. Wait'll you see who he asks! Written by **D.G. Chichester,** penciled by **Keith Pollard,** and inked by **Kim DeMulder.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE DESTROYER** #6 — **Remo** faces his greatest challenge when he goes undercover to infiltrate and exterminate the Mob! Written by **Will Murray**, penciled by **Carmine Infantino**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **LIEUTENANT BLUEBERRY GRAPHIC NOVEL** #4: **THE GHOST TRIBE—Cochise** and his people are interned in a reservation and slowly dying. **Blueberry**, however, has concerns of his own. He is to be handed over for trial for the attempted assassination of **President Grant.** But with a little help from his friends, **Red Wooley, McClure,** and **Chihuahua Pearl, Mike** manages to escape. Can he help save the Apaches? Written by Jean-Michel Charlier and drawn by **Moebius.** $12.95.

☐ **STRIP** #1—New from Marvel U.K.! It's a biweekly anthology of adventure and humor by Britain's top talent!

MARSHAL LAW Part I—Missed the acclaimed MARSHAL LAW Limited Series from Epic? Here's your chance to make up for it! STRIP promises to re-present in its entirety and in chronological order, the entire Limited Series starting now! Written by **Pat Mills** and drawn by **Kevin O'Neill.**

CHRONICLES OF GENGHIS GRIMTOAD—The Middle Ages . . . funny animal-style! Written by **John Wagner** and **Alan Grant** and drawn by **Ian Gibson.**

THE MAN FROM CANCER—Detective humor starring the toughest mollusk on Earth—**Crusht Acean.** Written by **Glen Dakin** and drawn by **Phil Elliot.** A Marvel U.K. comic. 48 pages. Direct Sales only.

☐ **DOCTOR WHO MAGAZINE** #157—Marvel U.K.'s hit magazine based on the world's longest running science-fiction television series is finally here! Discover why DOCTOR WHO is a hit all over the world in this 40-page black and white magazine filled with comics, interviews, behind the scenes articles, and more! A Marvel U.K. magazine. 64 pages, Direct Sales only. $2.75.

## Titles Shipping January 23 On Sale February 13

☐ **THOR** #415—It's a special origin issue! The complete origin of **Thor!** The origin of **Don Blake!** The reason why **Odin** sent **Thor** to Earth! The origin of **Thor's** hammer! Written by **Tom DeFalco** and penciled by **Herb Trimpe.** Plus in Tales of Asgard, a wild tale starring **Fandral the Dashing!** Written by **Tom DeFalco**, drawn by **Mark Texeira.** $1.00.

☐ **COUNT DUCKULA**—It's the battle of the century (or at least, the week) as **Count Duckula** faces the evil **Dr. Frankenstork** and his incredible monster. When the infamous **Frankenstork** becomes a boarder in Castle Duckula, the once quiet home of the vegetarian vampire is transformed into a den of dreaded, demonic, and quite delectable dirty work. Written by **Michael Gallagher** and penciled by **Warren Kremer.**

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #338—The **Fantastic Four** discover the astonishing secrets of the weapon at the heart of the mysterious time bubble! Written and drawn by **Walter Simonson.** $1.00.

☐ **IRON-MAN** #254—What's the price of friendship? For **Iron Man**, it's $1,000,000. And it could also cost him his life when, to save a friend, he goes to the Funnyville amusement park and confronts **Iron Monger II!** Guest-written by **Danny Fingeroth** and drawn by **Gene Colan.** $1.00.

☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #162—Talk about dilemmas! **Spider-Man** is caught in a doozy! He's trying to cure **Carrion.** But **Carrion** is out of the Vault and searching for his mother. If he finds her, his touch will kill her! Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema.** $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL** #15—Part two of a two-part story, in which **Spider-Man** teams up with the **Punisher** to fight a gang of race supremacists which has captured the Daily Bugle building, and—unknown to the **Punisher**—taken **Spider-Man's** wife, **Mary Jane**, hostage! Will the wise-cracking arachnid become a bloodthirsty vigilante, now that his kin is involved? Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #52—What's hiding in the basement? **X-Factor** discovers that the basement they're investigating has more surprises than just its mysterious, dangerous occupant! What's that? You say you want more? Then wait'll you see who falls in love with the **Iceman!** Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Paul Smith**, and inked by **Al Milgrom.** $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #45—Re-presenting from X-MEN #139, **Wolverine** and **Nightcrawler's** savage battle against **Alpha Flight** and the horrifying **Wendigo!** "Something Wicked This Way Comes" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin.** Plus an all-new tale of **Rogue** and how **Mystique** and **Destiny** manipulated her and her powers! Written by **Ann Nocenti** and drawn by **Dave Ross.** 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #64—Part three of the five-part "Creation Matrix Quest." Its name is the **Klud.** It's the last of the ravaging techno-organic whales. And it's about to wreck **the Transformers'** search for the Creation Matrix—permanently! Written by **Simon Furman**, penciled by **José Delbo**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey.** $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #46—**Wolverine, Devil Slayer, Aquarian,** and the **Sub-Mariner** in all-new adventures!

WOLVERINE Part IX—The conclusion of the origin of **Black Shadow/White Shadow!** Written by **Marv Wolfman** and drawn by **John Buscema.**

DEVIL SLAYER Part I—He's back! And he's in *big* trouble! **Mephisto** wants his soul! He's sent the **Flying Dutchman** to get it! And it looks like the **Dutchman's** found the perfect bait! Written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, penciled by **Rod Ramos**, and inked by **Chris Ivy.**

And complete in this issue:

The **Aquarian** hits upon an unorthodox plan to stop the brain-bashing **Watchdogs!** You'll go wild when you see what happens! Written by **Fabian Nicieza** and drawn by **Hugh Haynes.**

And witness the **Sub-Mariner's** finest hour when he risks everything to save a whale from a hunting fleet! Written by **Hollis Bright**, penciled by **Dell Barras**, and inked by **Marshall Rogers.** Biweekly. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #36—Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #12 a tale of vengeance and undead horror that threatens to destroy **Conan's** soul! "The Haunters of Castle Crimson" is written by **Roy Thomas** and drawn by **John Buscema.** Plus, from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #14, "The Silver Beast of Tonhertown" written by **Doug Moench** and drawn by **Mike Zeck.** A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.25.

☐ **MOON KNIGHT** #12—In the first part of a searing trilogy, **Moon Knight** joins with deadly mercenaries to free Burunda from its dictator, and **Moon Knight's** greatest foe, **Bushman. Featuring Moonie's** re-match with the new **Arsenal.** Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Sal Velluto**, and inked by **Tom Palmer.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #42—Intrigue, suspension, and racial tension explode in the court-martial inquiry of **Lieutenant Biggs.** Written by **Doug Murray,** penciled by **Wayne Vansant,** and inked by **Stan Drake.** Cover drawn by **Michael Golden.** Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN VERSUS VENOM** Trade Paperback—Representing in one volume the gripping story from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300, 315, 316, and 317! **Spidey's** epic battle to stop **Venom** once and for all! Written by **David Michelinie** and drawn by **Todd McFarlane.** 112 pages. Direct Sales only. $8.95.

☐ **DR. STRANGE** #15—**Dr. Strange,** his brother, **Vic,** and **Morbius** are in a desperate race against time to stop **Marie LeVeau,** the Voodoo Queen from resurrecting vampirism! "The Vampiric Verses" Part 2 is written by **Roy and Dann Thomas,** and drawn by **Jackson Guice.** Plus the beginning of a three-part feature "The Mark of Vodu" by **RJM L'Officier, Roy Thomas,** and **Geof Isherwood.**

☐ **AKIRA** #17—In the heart of the destruction of neo-Tokyo, the survivors struggle to stay alive—while **Akira,** under the control of **Tetsuo,** begins to exert his rule. Written and drawn by **Katsuhiro Otomo,** English language translation by **Jo Duffy,** computerized colors by **Steve Oliff.** An Epic Graphic Album series. For Mature Readers. $3.95.

## Titles Shipping January 30
## On Sale February 20

☐ **SILVER SURFER GRAPHIC NOVEL: THE ENSLAVERS**—When aliens find the Voyager probe, they take it as an invitation to come to Earth. Earth scientists welcome them with open arms, not knowing the aliens are actually villainous **Enslavers,** intent on capturing millions of Earth people to be used as living batteries for the **Enslaver** space ship. It's up to the **Silver Surfer** and one, lone Earth scientist to save the day. Written by **Stan Lee,** penciled by **Keith Pollard,** inked by **Joe Rubinstein.** Hardcover graphic novel. $16.95.

**A Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
**A Graphic Novel** is an 8 ½" x 11" paperback edition.
**A Trade Paperback** is a 7" x 10" paperback edition.
**A Graphic Album** is a 6⅝" x 10" high quality, square-bound edition.
**A Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
**Shipping Date** refers to when the comics leave the printer.

# SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

**Arsenal**—MOON KNIGHT #12
**Balthazar**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #46
**Blackheart**—DAREDEVIL #278
**Black Shadow**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #45 and 46
**Bushman**—MOON KNIGHT #12
**Carrion**—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #162
**Dark Elves**—ALPHA FLIGHT #82
**Destiny**—CLASSIC X-MEN #45
**Doctor Doom**—WHAT IF. . . ? #11
**Enchantress**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #45
**Flying Dutchman**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #46
**Geist**—WOLVERINE #22
**Genoshans**—X-MEN #259
**Hobgoblin**—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #162
**Immortus**—AVENGERS WEST COAST #56
**Kingpin**—EXCALIBUR #20
**Leviathan**—SHIELD #9
**Machinesmith**—CAPTAIN AMERICA #368
**Madame LeVeau**—DR. STRANGE #15
**Madman**—HULK #367
**Mad Thinker**—POWER PACK #54
**Magneto**—AVENGERS WEST COAST #56, CAPTAIN AMERICA #368
**Mephisto**—DAREDEVIL #278
**Molecule Man**—WHAT IF. . . ? #11
**Molten Man**—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #62
**Mystique**—CLASSIC X-MEN #45
**Nebula**—AVENGERS #315
**Omniverse**—QUASAR #8
**Red Skull**—CAPTAIN AMERICA #368
**Scarlet Witch**—AVENGERS WEST COAST #56
**Sleeper**—CAPTAIN AMERICA #368
**Sorcerer**—ALPHA FLIGHT #82
**Thanos**—SILVER SURFER #35
**Trolls**—ALPHA FLIGHT #82
**Venom**—SPIDER-MAN VERSUS VENOM Trade Paperback
**Watchdogs**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #46
**Wendigo**—CLASSIC X-MEN #48
**White Shadow**—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #45 and 46

# NEWSWATCH

## VITAL VIEWS OF VAMPIRIC VICTORIES, VALUABLE VIDEOS, AND VARIOUS VENTURES:

**ITEM:** What's more spooky than a night in Limbo and twice as much fun? That's right—it's the annual Marvel Halloween party!

This past October, for a few short hours, the Bullpen once again stopped being a place where people draw characters in costumes and became one where they wear the costumes themselves! The best costume of the year belonged to Assistant Editor **Jim DiGiovanna**, who took the prize for his stirring portrayal of none other than Assistant Production Manager **Dawn Geiger**! SPIDER-MAN Assistant Editor **Glenn Herdling** was runner-up with his rendition of **Kraven the Hunter**. And who took the award for best costume in the women's division? Why, the lovely Jim "Dawn" DiGiovanna, of course!

But there was more to the party than just a bunch of spiffy costumes. This year's bash also set the stage for a daunting physical competition, as the production team took on the editors in a competition that made the Olympics pale by comparison! After all, where else can you find events on a par with "Pin the Toupeé on the Writer" or a race in which contestants build witches' hats on people's heads . . . using nothing but Silly String?

Among the highlights of the games were: **Renée Witterstaetter**'s ability to pop balloons by sitting on them (and the high jumps taken by **Fran Burke**, while dealing with a balloon of her own), **Jade Moede**'s skill at "Win, Lose, or Draw," **Mike Heisler**'s speed at pushing a pumpkin with his nose, and **Steve Alexandrov**'s inhuman capacity for shoving marshmallows into his cheeks. And before we forget, we want to single out **Whitey Gonzalez** for all-around good sportsmanship, as well as **Dawn Geiger** and **Sara Tuchinsky**, who put themselves at the center of the "Wrap Dawn and Sara in Saran Wrap" competition!

When the cheering ended and the dust cleared, the production team had taken the pennant with a final score of 8 to 3. Congrats to all concerned, and thanks to "Best Judge" **Susan Ehrenreich** for making sure everything stayed on the up and up!

Sigh. It kinda makes you wish Halloween came around every week, doesn't it?

**ITEM:** Of course, the passing of Halloween means that 1989 is rapidly coming to a close. Yet, as we stride boldly into a brand new decade, we also have to admit that we're tempted to sing a rousing chorus of "Auld Land Syne" and look back at the recent past. So we don't know about you, but we certainly intend to keep an eye peeled for the upcoming MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW! The YEAR IN REVIEW will be a full-color magazine available at comics specialty shops everywhere, and it reviews all of the major events of the past twelve months in a single, handy volume!

Plus, because the YEAR IN REVIEW is written in the style of news-magazines such as Time or Newsweek, it also gives a much-awaited glimpse of what reading the news is like inside the Marvel Universe! So as midnight approaches and the ball starts to drop in Times Square, take a minute to check out MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW. Or as we in the news business say, "Wuxtry! Wuxtry! Read all about it!"

**ITEM:** In the mood for something new written by the one and only **Stan Lee**? Then warm up the ol' VCR, because the folks at Cabin Fever Entertainment have just the thing — a brand new, animated videocassette featuring the origin of the sun-powered super hero, **Solarman!** And not only does the 38-minute tape feature Solarman's life-and-death struggle against the evil **Warlord Kraal**, but it also includes an extensive interview with Stan the Man himself!

So if you think that the SOLARMAN videocassette sounds like your cup of tea, then break out the suntan lotion and send $14.95 (plus $4.00 for postage and handling) to:

Cabin Fever Entertainment
Dept. M56001
P.O. 2650
Greenwich, CT 06836-2650

**ITEM:** One of the most tragic problems facing America today is the enormous number of adults who can't read. As you may know, Marvel has long been an active participant in campaigns aimed at promoting reading among people of all ages.

Soon, you'll be seeing our latest entry in the war on illiteracy: a very special comic book entitled ADVENTURES IN READING STARRING THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Developed in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Baltimore (and featuring a letter of endorsement by First Lady **Barbara Bush**), the 32-page special thrusts the wall-crawler into the pages of *Treasure Island, Tales from the Arabian Nights, The Jungle Book*, and other classic books as he tackles a villain who's determined to wipe out reading once and for all!

But the folks who might gain the most from ADVENTURES IN READING may never know it exists, simply because they can't read any of the articles about it. So if you have a friend or relative who has trouble reading, why not pass along a copy of ADVENTURES IN READING? You just might change their world.

We're going to try something a little different this month. Usually in this space, we run a list of the top ten best-selling Marvel Comics in the direct sales market. But this month, we received a letter from a loyal MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE follower, **Randy Heuvel**, who wrote, "Since we all know the mutant titles pretty much dominate the top ten, I believe it would be a good idea to expand the list. Top twenty, maybe? Don't get me wrong, I like all the mutant titles, but my favorite title is THE INCREDIBLE HULK. I also like IRON MAN, THOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, etc. So I'd like to see where these titles come in at."

Well, Randy, we here at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE aim to please. Here now, in a special long-distance dedication, are the Top Twenty Marvel Comics for October, as compiled by our Vice President/Direct Sales **Carol Kalish**.

1—**X-MEN #256**
2—**WOLVERINE #19**
3—**EXCALIBUR #17**
4—**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #327**
5—**X-FACTOR #49**
6—**PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #13**
7—**PUNISHER #28**
8—**AVENGERS WEST COAST #53**
9—**AVENGERS #312**
10—**WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #57**
11—**SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #159**
12—**NEW MUTANTS #84**
13—**IRON MAN #251**
14—**DAREDEVIL #275**
15—**FANTASTIC FOUR #235**
16—**WHAT IF. . .#8**
17—**CAPTAIN AMERICA #365**
18—**MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK UPDATE #8**
19—**MOON KNIGHT #9**
20—**MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #36**

# MARK'S REMARK'S

Every year for the past ten or so years, representatives of the Marvel Comics Group have been attending the Frankfurt Book Fair (or Buchmesse, as it's called there in West Germany), a gathering of book publishers from across the globe, who get together to show their wares, negotiate the rights for foreign language editions to their publications, and to have a good time. This year, when Tom DeFalco had to beg off making the trip due to being drafted for jury duty, he sent me, his right-hand man, to serve as the token editorial presence among our crack foreign licensing team. I must admit the prospect of going didn't thrill me at first. I prefer muddling about the house to world traveling—discipline and routine to novelty and adventure. (How's a guy supposed to write two monthly books gallivanting the globe, huh?) But despite my reservations, once I got there, I had an incredible time, learned a whole lot about Marvel's overseas market, met some really enjoyable comics people from other countries, and got a ton of ideas for new projects we should be doing here in the states.

As a handy public service this time around, I'm going to provide all of you avid Americans with a little background on Marvel's international publishing division. The department began in earnest in 1971 with a handful of foreign publishers. Now, 18 years later, Marvel has 40 different publishers in 26 countries and 16 different languages.

Here's how Marvel's foreign publishing program works. Foreign publishers negotiate for and secure the rights to a given series and decide with what issue they wish to begin publishing. We then provide them with copies of the "film" (transparencies of the color separations), "proofs" (black and white photostats), or veloxes (color prints) of the issues in question, with them footing the bill for duplicating the film. The foreign publisher then takes the film, translates the captions and balloons into their native language, masks out the English words on the black plate and neatly strips in their own words in the balloons. The film with its altered black plate is then sent to the printers and voila, the result is a printed comic in another language.

That's almost all there's to it. But most foreign publishers package our American material differently than we do. In general, the foreign market expects comic books to be thicker, so it generally takes several American comic book stories to make up one foreign comic book volume. Consequently, foreign publishers gobble up our material at a rapid rate, and if care isn't taken in setting up the program, they could catch up to us in no time. Why doesn't a new foreign publisher just start with issue #1 of whatever they're repackaging and proceed from there? Well, even as American fans now look at artwork from 20 years ago and pronounce it as looking "dated" or "old-fashioned," so too does the international market. Their tastes demand modern, current-looking material, so the trick often becomes finding exactly where to begin their publishing, say, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. You want to go back far enough so you have a comfortable backlog of material, yet you don't want to go back so far that the material looks dated. Furthermore, you need to start at the beginning of a storyline, so new readers have a good jumping-on point. Where would you begin publishing AMAZING SPIDER-MAN?

So, you may ask, what are the big trends in our foreign markets? What's our most popular character overseas? What countries have the biggest assortment of Marvel comics? What's the longest running Marvel comic in another country? Slow down, and I'll try to answer all these questions. Let me do so by providing you for the first time anywhere with a country by country survey of Marvel's international publishers' publishing program across the entire globe (in alphabetical order yet!)! Ready?

In Argentina, ALF is the only title currently being published.

In the Benelux countries, G.I. JOE, TRANSFORMERS, ALF, and CONAN are being published, along with a smattering of Marvel super heroes.

In Brazil, one of our top five markets, a broad range of Marvel, Epic, and Star material is available on the newsstands — X-MEN, CONAN, DREADSTAR, VIDEO JACK, FANTASTIC FOUR, even VOID INDIGO, to name just a few.

Denmark publishes HEATHCLIFF, ALF, and G.I. JOE.

Finland produces TRANSFORMERS, INDIANA JONES, and CARE BEARS.

In France, another of our top five markets, a wide variety of material is available, such as DINO-RIDERS, GROO, COUNT DUCKULA, SPIDER-MAN, and INDIANA JONES, as well as MARSHAL LAW, ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN, BLACK PANTHER, and other limited series and graphic novels. (Hey, they even collected my HAWKEYE limited series into a single album a few years before we in the U.S. did!)

In Germany, third of our big five markets, a host of material also appears in regular anthologies or in collected albums. Among them ALF, THOR, the Lee/Moebius SILVER SURFER, CONAN, HULK, and NICK FURY VS. SHIELD, to name but a few. They're also one of the few foreign publishers of CAPTAIN AMERICA, a title dear to my heart. Anyone hazard a guess why Cap isn't as well-received as Spider-Man in most overseas markets?

In Greece, G.I. JOE, CONAN, GROO, various Star properties as well as DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU and TEAM AMERICA appear in some incarnation.

In Hungary, CARE BEARS, ALF, and SPIDER-MAN can be found on the newsstands.

India licenses G.I. JOE and SPIDER-MAN, as does Indonesia.

Israel publishes THOR, IRON MAN, and X-MEN.

Italy has a big publishing program which includes SPIDER-MAN, FANTASTIC FOUR, PUNISHER, ALF, AVENGERS and a slew of graphic novels.

Korea has G.I. JOE on the stands.

Mexico, a fairly big market, provides its reading public CONAN, ALF, G.I. JOE, SPIDER-MAN, SECRET WARS and AVENGERS, among others.

In the Philippines G.I. JOE is the only Marvel to be had.

Portugal's roster includes HULK, CONAN, THUNDERCATS, and TRANSFORMERS.

Spain is definitely another of our top five markets, publishing a vast spectrum of material—INDIANA JONES, CONAN, HEATHCLIFF, PUNISHER, X-MEN, TRANSFORMERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, THOR, ALF, THE 'NAM,

ALPHA FLIGHT, FANTASTIC FOUR, ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN, you name it.

Sweden provides ALF, G.I. JOE, HEATHCLIFF, HULK, SPIDER-MAN, X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, and even CRAZY MAGAZINE.

Taiwan only publishes SPIDER-MAN and X-MEN.

In Turkey, SPIDER-MAN, CONAN, and SILVER SURFER are among its licensed properties.

Yugoslavia features CONAN, SPIDER-MAN, GROO and THE AVENGERS, for the most part.

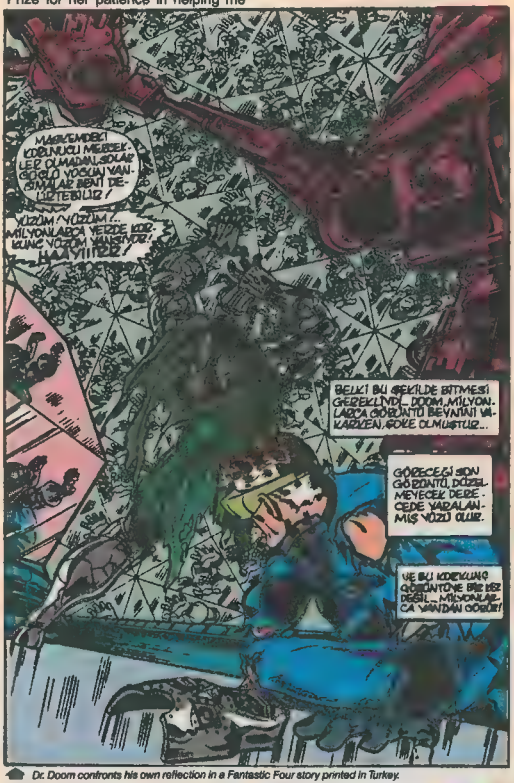
And that in a nutshell is our foreign market. Some countries have more than one publisher of our material, other countries have just one big publisher. Our five biggest international publishers are Planeta de Agostina in Spain, Editora Abril in Brazil, Condor Verlag and Bastei Verlag in Germany, and Semic Press AB which has publishing divisions in Benelux, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark.

From a casual glance at the titles listed in capital letters above, I'll bet you can spot the same trend that I did, that Marvel U.S.'s licensed material such as G.I. JOE, TRANSFORMERS and HEATHCLIFF seems to be almost as prevalent as the Marvel super heroes which constitute the bulk of sales in the U.S. market. Of all our super heroes, **Spider-Man** is definitely number one in worldwide popularity. The longest running overseas title is probably Spain's SPIDERMAN (no hyphen), which is currently on issue #183 (though it may also be Germany's DIE SPINNE which is on issue #173). And want to know something really interesting? In some countries (such as Sweden) DC and Marvel material are licensed by the same publisher.

My thanks go to our wonderful international licensing division on the floor above my office for all this nifty information. The department in its entirety consists of **Michele Gagnon**, vice president of international licensing, **Pam Dersovits**, marketing manager for international licensing, **Francine Burke**, reproduction department coordinator, **Mindy Fisch**, contracts coordinator, **Dorrell Henry**, secretary, and the guys in the Repro Department —**Al Smith**, supervisor, **John Lewandowski**, warehouse manager, and their fellow inmates, **Don Alcindor, Carey Brown, Kevin McCarthy, Charles O'Bryant, Alfred Jetter, Parris Jackson**, and the ever-popular **Stu Schwartzberg.** Pam deserves a No-Prize for her patience in helping me understand all this well enough to explain it to all of you.

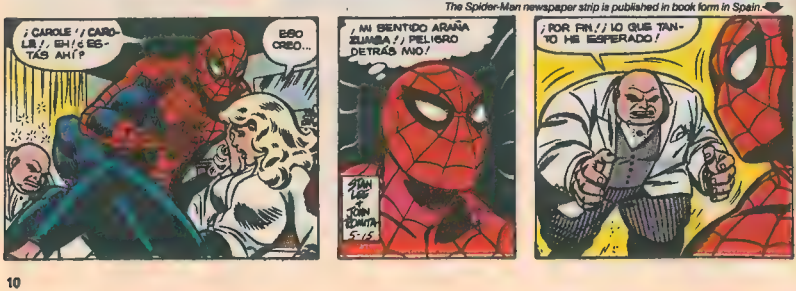
Now that everyone (including me) is up to speed on all this background next month I will actually discuss the Frankfurt Book Fair!

*—Mark Gruenwald*


MARVELMEN! KÖDUNUCU MEREKLERİ OLMADAN, SOLAR GİBİ OLDU YOKLUĞUNUZ. SİMALAR BENİ DELİRTEBİLİR!
YÜZÜM YÜZÜM!.. MİLYONLARCA YEŞİL KÖR ELİNİZ YÜZÜM YÜZÜNÜZDE! HAYIIIR!
BELKİ BU ŞEKİLDE BİTMESİ GEREKLİYDİ... DOOM, MİLYON LARCA GÖRÜNTÜ BEYNİNİ YAKARKEN, SÖNE OLMUŞTUR...
GÖZECİĞİ SİON GÖRÜNTÜ, DÜZELMEYECEK DERECEDE YARALANMIŞ YÜZÜ OLUR.
VE BU KÖKENİNİ GÖRÜNTÜNE BİR DAHA BAKMAMALARI İÇİN BAŞINDAN GÖRÜR!

*Dr. Doom confronts his own reflection in a Fantastic Four story printed in Turkey.*

*The Spider-Man newspaper strip is published in book form in Spain.*


¡CAROLE!/ CAROLE!, ¿EH?¿ESTÁS AHÍ?
ESO CREO...
¡MI SENTIDO ARAÑA ZUMBA!/ ¡PELIGRO DETRÁS MÍO!
STAN LEE + JOHN ROMITA
¡POR FIN!/ ¡LO QUE TANTO HE ESPERADO!

# CAPTAIN AMERICA

## THE MOTION PICTURE

Next year, **Captain America** kicks off his fiftieth anniversary in style with his first big-budget feature film! Brought to you by the fine folks at 21st Century Film Corporation, CAPTAIN AMERICA stars newcomer **Matt Salinger** (son of famed author **J.D. Salinger**) as the star-spangled hero. **Scott Paulin** co-stars as Cap's greatest foe, the insidious **Red Skull**.

CAPTAIN AMERICA is set for release in Spring, 1990. Also appearing in the film is a topnotch cast including, **Darren McGavin, Ned Beatty, Ronny Cox, Michael Nouri, Melinda Dillon, Bill Mumy,** and **Kim Gillingham**.

The movie is very faithful to the comic book Cap's origin, as created by **Joe Simon** and **Jack Kirby**. The story begins with **Steve Rogers**, a 97-pound weakling who tries to enlist in the US Army at the beginning of World War II. Rogers is rejected by the army, but is picked to be the subject for a top-secret government experiment codenamed: "Project Re-Birth."

The experiment is a success! Rogers is injected with a serum that increases his strength 100 times! He dons the familiar red-white-and-blue garb, and becomes . . . Captain America, Sentinel of Liberty!

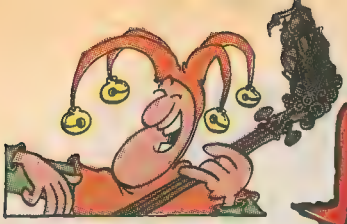
Cap becomes a major force for freedom in WW II, battling his way through Nazi hordes, and encountering his evil counterpart, the Red Skull! At the end of the war, Cap falls prey to one of the Skull's traps, and is frozen on ice until 1990! When Cap emerges from his 45-year sleep as young and fit as ever, he finds that the Red Skull is still up to his old tricks. Thus, an epic conflict between these two sworn enemies is renewed!

CAPTAIN AMERICA will feature the greatest conflict yet between Cap and Red Skull. And this time, only one shall survive! Who will win? You'll have to wait to see the movie to find out!

*—Barry Dutter*

Captain America strikes a blow for freedom as he takes on his arch-foe, the Red Skull. The Skull is the product of a fiendish Nazi experiment, created to be Captain America's equal in every way!

World War II is coming to an end, but the Skull hasn't given up yet! He's about to hatch one last Nazi plot: he's going to launch a V-2 rocket at Washington, DC —with Cap strapped aboard as a passenger!



A SWORD, SOME CHEESE DIP, AND THOU—
THE AMAZING LEGEND OF

# SERGIO ARAGONÉS GROO THE WANDERER

GROO TM and © 1989 by Sergio Aragonés

Who's the dumbest barbarian of th ?

Why it's **Groo the Wanderer**, of course!

Who sinks every ship on which he sets sail?

Groo!

Who thinks his dog would make a good snack?

Groo!

Who is slow of mind, but quick with his sword?

Groo!

Who travels from town to town, lowering property values wherever he goes?

Groo!

Who is the only human being with a brain smaller than that of a dinosaur?

Groo!

Who makes **Conan** look like a rocket scientist?

Who else could it be but Groo, the lovable-but-destructive barbarian who doesn't mean to cause total chaos wherever he goes—it just works out that way! Although impossibly stupid, there is one thing Groo is good at, and that's wielding his mighty sword.

Ever on the lookout for a fray, Groo roams the countryside, in search of a job, lodgings, and some cheese dip. When the cause is just, and his strength is needed, (and if the money is right), Groo does what Groo does best, striking down all in his path, regardless of whose side they are on.

If Groo has one flaw as a swordsman, it is that he is too thorough! When Groo enters a battle, he just hacks away, without bothering to worry who he's hacking at. But it matters not to Groo! His only concern is that he have a good fray, followed by a several course meal.

Groo's name is known throughout the land. His bad reputation always preceeds him. When people find out Groo is coming, they try to get out of town as fast as they can. But it is to no avail. Few towns are left standing after Groo has passed through them; Groo is like a force of nature.

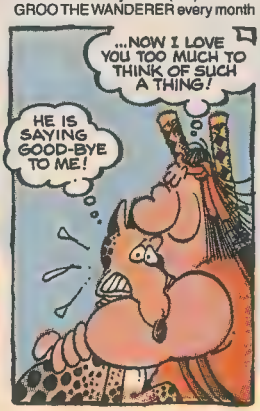
One of the comics success stories of the 80s, GROO began as a creator-owned comic from Pacific Comics, pioneering a trend in which comics writers and artists would actually own the copyright to their work.

When Pacific folded, Eclipse published the remaining issues of GROO as GROO SPECIAL #1. From there, Groo moved on to yet a third comic book company, Marvel's creator-owned Epic Comics. Not only has Epic published GROO THE WANDERER every month since, they've also recently released THE GROO CHRONICLES, a high quality limited series reprinting the Pacific and Eclipse issues and adding new, unpublished material!

What makes Groo so successful? Says **Mark Evanier**, scribe for Groo's misadventures, "We all have an old friend we like to revisit and see him do something stupid. One thing that can be relied on is that Groo will never do anything intelligent — unless it's by accident, the way a stopped clock is at least right twice a day."

But Groo is more than just stupid—there's a certain bizarre logic that he always follows, no matter how disastrously. He's a catalyst, provoking the best or the worst from those around him, in a strangely reliable fashion. This internal consistency is another element in Groo's success; his fans know he'll never leave his time period to team up with Wolverine or to engage in a multi-title crossover epic.

Another factor in the reliable pleasure of GROO is the stability of its creative team; every single Groo adventure has been imagineered by the Aragonés/



GROO TM and © 1989 by Sergio Aragonés

Evanier team, all of them have been lettered by **Stan Sakai**, and nearly all colored by **Tom Luth**—who may be the most resourceful colorist in comics, if you've ever seen how many characters Sergio draws in a single panel! Few series indeed can boast the same writer, artist, letterer and colorist delivering the same pleasureful package month after month with the delightful dependability of GROO THE WANDERER.

And Groo is accompanied monthly by one of the most tolerant supporting casts in comics (they'd have to be to appear side-by-side with a character of Groo's incompetence), including the **Sage**, the **Minstrel**, **Chakaal**, **Groo'ella**, **Arcadio**, and many more. The Sage is is a personal favorite of both Mark and Sergio, perhaps because his wisdom makes such a startling contrast to Groo's ineptitude. Less pleasing to Mark is the character of the Minstrel, "because I have to write all the poetry!"

Far and away though, the favorite of Groo's supporting characters is his loyal dog, **Rufferto**—named and modeled after Sergio's own dog Rufferto! No matter how mindless Groo's motives, Rufferto remains at his side, with the blindly affectionate friendship the best dogs always possess. "Groo's sidekick had to be a dog," explains Sergio, "since any human, being therefore more intelligent than Groo, would end up becoming the main character!"

**Sergio Aragonés**, the maniacal mastermind behind Groo's madness, is the world-renowned cartoonist who, among other things, has been published in every issue of *Mad Magazine* since it's inception; his current work is published not only by Epic Comics, but by publishers in France, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Italy and Turkey! His Groosome cohort, Mark Evanier, is an Emmy nominated television writer whose work in comics ranges from BLACKHAWK to BUGS BUNNY; currently he also writes GARFIELD AND FRIENDS for Saturday morning television. Both Sergio and Mark plan to continue doing Groo's adventures as long as there's a market for them—which looks to be a long, long time.

Future exploits of Groo will include Groo finding a horse and dealing with Rufferto's resulting jealousy; Groo taking up painting and learning just what people consider good art and bad art; and a look at the world of real estate, as con men cash in on the drop in property value that results whenever Groo comes to town.

And besides GROO THE WANDERER and THE GROO CHRONICLES, Groo fanatics can also indulge their habit with Groo Graphic Novels! THE LIFE OF GROO details the efforts of Groo's parents to escape him, of his childhood friends to become childhood strangers, and other important events in Groo's youthful development. THE DEATH OF GROO, on the other hand, depicts Groo's scheme to fake his own death, so as to see everyone mourn him. Sadly for Groo, things don't go as planned—but then, when do they?

With all this Groo material, **John Goodman** or **Jim Belushi** should have plenty of research available to them if they ever play Groo on film. But Mark says Groo may never be translated to live action: "Look at all those characters Sergio draws! No film company could afford that many actors! And at any rate, if there's anyone qualified to play Groo as stupidly as he really is—they should be put to death!"

*—Brian Nelson*

SPECIAL THE MUTANT REPORT SPECIAL

VOLUME 2 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 12

# THE MIGHTY MARVEL MUTANT SCORECARD!

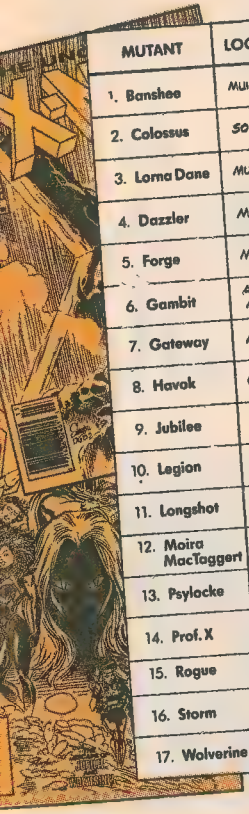
The Acts of Vengeance are over! And in the aftermath of this devastating attack, the X-Men have scattered to the four corners of the Earth.

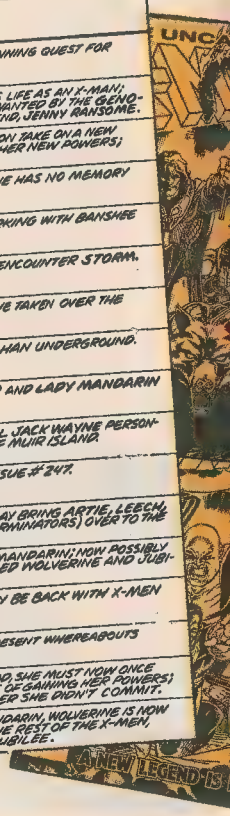
In X-Men #251, four members of the team went through the Siege Perilous, a device that not only teleports you, but also transforms you into another aspect of yourself. Which means not only do the other X-Men not know where their missing teammates are, in some cases, they don't even know *who* they are!

The remaining X-Men have also been involved in adventures all across the globe. In the next few months, the team will gradually work on getting back together. Editor Bob Harras described the next few issues as "the children of Xavier looking for each other."

With so many merry mutants marching around in the pages of the X-MEN these days, you practically need a scorecard to keep track of them all. Well, now you have one! For your convenience, we here at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE have assembled a complete rundown on the whereabouts of all your favorite mutants. Special thanks to X-Men Assistant Editor Daryl Edelman for his help in compiling this list.

| MUTANT | LOCATION | STATUS |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Banshee | MUIR ISLAND | RECENTLY REJOINED X-MEN; NOW BEGINNING QUEST FOR HIS MISSING COMRADES. |
| 2. Colossus | SOHO, N.Y. | LIVING AS A PAINTER; NO MEMORY OF HIS LIFE AS AN X-MAN; LIVES WITH PHILLIP MOREAU, WHO IS WANTED BY THE GENOSHANS ALONG WITH MOREAU'S GIRLFRIEND, JENNY RANSOME. |
| 3. Loma Dane | MUIR ISLAND | NO LONGER POLARIS; SHE MAY MAY SOON TAKE ON A NEW SUPER HERO NAME TO GO ALONG WITH HER NEW POWERS; PRISONER OF LEGION. |
| 4. Dazzler | MALIBU CA. | LIVING IN LILA CHENEY'S HOUSE IN SHE HAS NO MEMORY OF HER LIFE WITH THE X-MEN. |
| 5. Forge | MUIR ISLAND | NEWEST RECRUIT TO THE TEAM; WORKING WITH BANSHEE IN HIS QUEST. |
| 6. Gambit | AMERICAN MIDWEST | BRAND-NEW MUTANT! WILL SOON ENCOUNTER STORM. |
| 7. Gateway | AUSTRALIA | CAPTIVE OF THE REAVERS, WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER THE X-MEN'S HEADQUARTERS. |
| 8. Havok | GENOSHA | FIGHTING TO FREE MUTANT GENOSHAN UNDERGROUND. |
| 9. Jubilee | HONG KONG | HAS JUST FINISHED FIGHTING LORD AND LADY MANDARIN ALONGSIDE WOLVERINE. |
| 10. Legion | MUIR ISLAND | HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY HIS EVIL JACK WAYNE PERSONALITY; WILL SOON MENACE ALL OF MUIR ISLAND. |
| 11. Longshot | UNKNOWN | LONGSHOT LEFT THE TEAM IN ISSUE #247. |
| 12. Moira MacTaggert | MUIR ISLAND | SAFEGUARDING MUIR ISLAND; MAY BRING ARTIE, LEECH, AND INNIE KID (FROM THE EXTERMINATORS) OVER TO THE ISLAND. |
| 13. Psylocke | HONG KONG | WAS TRANSFORMED INTO LADY MANDARIN; NOW POSSIBLY BACK TO NORMAL, AND HAS JOINED WOLVERINE AND JUBILEE; RECALLS HER PAST LIFE. |
| 14. Prof. X | OUTER SPACE | CAMEO IN X-FACTOR #50; MAY BE BACK WITH X-MEN BY FALL OF 1990. |
| 15. Rogue | UNKNOWN | ENTERED THE SIEGE PERILOUS; PRESENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN. |
| 16. Storm | MIDDLE AMERICA | HAS REVERTED BACK TO CHILDHOOD, SHE MUST NOW ONCE AGAIN GO THROUGH THE PROCESS OF GAINING HER POWERS; SHE IS ALSO WANTED FOR A MURDER SHE DIDN'T COMMIT. |
| 17. Wolverine | HONG KONG | HAVING JUST DEFEATED THE MANDARIN, WOLVERINE IS NOW BEGINNING HIS SEARCH FOR THE REST OF THE X-MEN, ALONG WITH PSYLOCKE AND JUBILEE. |





# STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes,

Well, the Christmas season has sneaked up on us once again and you know what that means! In addition to all the presents and wonderful things that the Yuletide brings, it's also time for my annual Xmas poem! Well, hey, into each life some rain must fall!

Just to inject a little class into the annual atrocity which I so callously inflict upon the hapless hordes of Marveldom, I thought that this year's offering should be based upon a recognized classic! So, for all the erudite literature-lovers amongst you, here's our official 1989 Soapbox version of **Edgar Allen Poe's** immortal "The Raven"; guaranteed to set the world of culture back at least a century or two!

Once, within the Bullpen dreary,
While I scripted, weak and weary,
Writing many a quaint and curious comic
Of forgotten lore;
While I proofread, nearly napping,
Suddenly there came a tapping,
As of someone gently rapping,
Rapping at my office door.
"Tis some editor," I muttered,
"Tapping at my office door,
Only this and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember,
It was only last December,
And each desperate, fatal deadline
Seemed to haunt me more and more.
I knew that I would have to borrow
A plot from someone by tomorrow,
Or else, to my eternal sorrow,
They'd come knocking on my door.
All the rabid, raging editors
Would come knocking at my door,
The door that's marked
EXCELSIOR!

Then, I heard their threats and shouting,
Which set my brain to fearing, doubting,
Filling me with strange new terror
I had never felt before.
I planned how I would stall and waver,
Alibi and curry favor.
"I beg thee not to vent thy wrath
By breaking down my office door!
For if you do, I'll have to pay
Marvel for that broken door,
That door that's marked
EXCELSIOR!"

Open here I flung the portal,
Fearing neither ghost nor mortal,
And in there stepped an angry artist,
A type I've never seen before.
Neither sketch nor drawing made he,
Of either man or boy or lady;
But, while my poor heart beat like eighty,
He just stood right near the door,
Stood and watched as I sat typing,
Stood and watched
And nothing more!

Then, this silent man beguiling
My sad fancy into smiling
By the ink stains and the smudges
On the artist's frock he wore,
"Since thou art a Marvel Madman,
Thou" I said, "art sure no bad man,
Ghastly grim and starving stranger
Wandering near the Hudson shore.
Tell me what thy monthly strip is,
Near New York's polluted shore."
Quoth the artist,
EXCELSIOR!

How to describe the rage that filled me?
His loathsome answer nearly killed me!
How dared he utter that one word
Which I have used so oft' before?
For we cannot help agreeing
That no living human being
Ever yet was cursed with seeing
Artist upon his office floor,
Artist 'pon the threadbare carpet,
Right upon his office floor,
With such strip as
EXCELSIOR!

And that artist, never blinking,
Still is standing, ever thinking,
Near the bright red **Spidey** poster
Just above my office door.
And his manner has the seeming,
Of a DC'er who is scheming,
And I know what he is dreaming
Standing transfixed on the floor,
I know he hopes to learn the secret
that lies lettered on the door!
The secret of . . .
EXCELSIOR!
(But he shall learn it—Nevermore!)

Okay, you don't haveta say it; I know I skipped a few stanzas, but ol' **Scrooge Sallcrup** wouldn't allow me more than this one page to gift you with! I can also hear you muttering, "What in the name of **Wolverine's** manicurist does that incoherent item of incredible inanity have to do with Christmas?" Shame on you for not figuring it out! I now have a good excuse for being late with my Xmas cards—I can always claim I didn't have time to write 'em because I couldn't deprive you of your annual bouquet of passionate poesy, right?

Anyway, you can all relax and enjoy the holiday from here on in. You've done your penance by staying with me till now, and **Santa** won't forget it. Oh, just one thing more—ol' **Kris** wanted me to leave you with these inspiring words, "Credo quia absurdum est!" even though we're sure you already know 'em by heart!

And, lest we forget (as if we'd dare!), Merry Christmas and a Happy—
EXCELSIOR!

Stan

Stan Lee PRESENTS
Petey
the ADVENTURES of PETER PARKER LONG BEFORE HE BECAME SPIDER-MAN!!
"Claus Encounter!!" by FRED HEMBECK
Up to bed, young man, or SANTA won't stop by!
Aw, Aunt May, I'm TOO OLD for that Santa stuff...
Listen to your Aunt and SCOOT, boy.
Yes, Uncle Ben...
I don't think he's going to BELIEVE you in your RED SUIT this year Ben...
Probably NOT, May, but it's worth a TRY.
It's out in the GARAGE --c'mon...
Don't they realize I'm not a LITTLE KID anymore? It's been a LONG TIME --months, even-- since I believed in SAN--
CRACK!
BOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
I'd better CHECK IT OUT!
..oh no...
Gee, Uncle Ben, I thought this was CHRISTMAS EVE, not HALLOWEEN?!...
eh?...

I'm too SMART for this, you know. You're NOT fooling me AT ALL.
uh, WHAT do you MEAN, young fellow? I'm SANTA CLAUS!
Yeah, SURE.
No, REALLY -I AM!
uh huh.. and I'm CAPTAIN AMERICA!
You ARE? ..er, I mean--
Oh, cut it out, Uncle Ben. I'm TIRED of being treated like a CHILD!
..but.. but..
Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going into the kitchen for some MILK and COOKIES!
UNCLE BEN?!
..oh my..
eh? PETEY??
..but..but.. I mean.. how could?..
..HE'S GONE!?
WHO'S gone, Petey?
HO HO
...someone the likes of which we'll probably NEVER, EVER see again..
Oh, if only you were so LUCKY, Petey Parker...
That was an awfully CLOSE CALL. Luckily, I've studied LOCAL CUSTOMS thoroughly...
...just ONE of the MANY reasons I'm considered amongst the foremost SPIES of the SKRULL EMPIRE!?
"HO HO HO" indeed, Earthlings!
The BEGINNING?

# MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS

It was only seven years ago that we first began publishing graphic novels. Our first graphic novel, published in 1982, was THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, written and drawn by **Jim Starlin**, featuring most of Marvel's most famous heroes. In this memorable tale, Marvel's first **Captain Marvel**, a hero from another galaxy, wages his final battle against Death.

Since then, we have produced a virtual library of paperback and hardcover books. While the trade paperbacks and MARVEL MASTERWORKS hardcovers contain collections of past Marvel or Epic Comics stories, the graphic novels invariably feature brand new material, either set in the Marvel Universe or in entirely different fictional realms.

Newcomers to Marvel might want to start out with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: PARALLEL LIVES by **Gerry Conway, Alex Saviuk** and **Andy Mushynsky**, which recounts both the web-slinger's origin and the past of his wife, **Mary Jane Watson**. This graphic novel shows how their lives intersected from childhood onward, as well as depicting a new battle royal between **Spider-Man** and one of his greatest enemies, **Doctor Octopus. Spider-Man** wages his last and strangest battle against his long-time enemy, **Kraven the Hunter**, in a trade paperback by **J. Marc DeMatteis, Mike Zeck,** and **Bob McLeod**. The trade paperback AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: THE SAGA OF THE ALIEN COSTUME collects the tales by **Roger Stern, Tom DeFalco, Ron Frenz** and **Rick Leonardi**

in which Spider-Man returned to Earth from an alien world wearing a new black costume which eventually proved to be a living being that threatened his very life. Spidey battles the **Juggernaut** in a paperback by **Roger Stern** and **John Romita Jr.** And AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: HOOKY by **Susan K. Putney** and acclaimed fantasy and horror artist **Berni Wrightson** takes **Spider-Man** out of his familiar New York setting and thrusts him into a war between two sorcerers in an otherdimensional world.

**Jim Starlin** and **Berni Wrightson** collaborated on the wild comedy INCREDIBLE HULK AND THE THING: THE BIG CHANGE, which pits these two heroes against a weird assortment of monsters on a bizarre alien world. The **Thing** also stars in the trade paperback THE THING: THE PROJECT PEGASUS SAGA, written by **Mark Gruenwald** and **Ralph Macchio**, and penciled by **John Byrne** and **George Perez**. Of course the **Thing** also appears with the other members of the **Fantastic Four** in THE TRIAL OF GALACTUS, a trade paperback written and illustrated by **John Byrne.** And **Jim Starlin** was both the writer and artist for the DREADSTAR graphic novel, which led into the long-running comics series of the same name.

Marvel's most popular hero team, the mutant **X-Men**, are featured in numerous graphic novels and trade paperbacks. X-MEN: THE PHOENIX SAGA by **Chris Claremont, John Byrne,** and **Terry Austin,** with a painted cover by **Bill Sienkiewicz**, collects the classic issues in which **Jean Grey**'s incarnation of **Phoenix** turned into the insane, all-powerful **Dark Phoenix**. More classic **Claremont/Byrne/Austin** work appears in X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST, set in a future when mutants are imprisoned in concentration camps. X-MEN: GOD LOVES, MAN KILLS by **Chris Claremont** and **Brent Anderson,** is a controversial tale which pits the X-MEN against a fanatical preacher dedicated to the destruction of all mutants. X-MEN: THE SAVAGE LAND by **Chris Claremont, Mike Golden, Dave Cockrum,** and **Paul Smith,** guest stars **Spider-Man** and the jungle lord, **Ka-Zar**, in an adventure in prehistoric land hidden amidst the snows of Antarctica. The X-Men's younger counterparts made their debut in the graphic novel, THE NEW MUTANTS, by **Chris Claremont, Paul Smith** and **Arthur Adams**, in which the mutant team journeys to the realm of the Norse gods. One of the newest members of the **X-Men** stars in the trade paperback collection of the LONGSHOT limited series by **Ann Nocenti** and **Arthur Adams.** The most popular of the **X-Men** travels to Japan and reaches a turning point in his life in the WOLVERINE trade paperback by **Chris Claremont, Frank Miller,** and **Josef Rubinstein. Wolverine** teams up with master spy **Nick Fury** in THE SCORPIO CONNECTION, a new

hardcover graphic novel by **Archie Goodwin** and **Howard Chaykin**. Fans of our new **X-Men**-related series EXCALIBUR can learn more about the past of team members **Captain Britain** and **Meggan**, as well as many of their foes, by reading the CAPTAIN BRITAIN trade paperback, which reprints many of their adventures from the original British publications. And one of the **X-Men**'s most powerful adversaries invades New York City in REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH by **David Michelinie** and **Marc Silvestri**.

**Frank Miller**'s innovative work as writer and as artist is displayed in a number of other books as well. THE ELEKTRA SAGA, written and drawn by **Miller**, which weaves together all of the stories from DAREDEVIL involving that masked crimefighter's involvement with **Elektra**, the ninja assassin whom he so deeply loved. DAREDEVIL: BORN AGAIN, written by **Miller** and illustrated by **David Mazzucchelli**, is a powerful drama showing how **Daredevil** rebuilt his life as both man and crimefighter after it was utterly destroyed by his archfoe, the **Kingpin**. Two other books showcase the astonishing, groundbreaking collaborations of **Frank Miller** and **Bill Sienkiewicz**. The first, the graphic novel DAREDEVIL: LOVE AND WAR, deals not only with **Daredevil** and the **Kingpin**, but also with the lives of two women that intersect with theirs. And then there is ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN, an experimental, at times surreal, adventure thriller blending espionage with the supernatural, pitting Elektra against a presidential candidate out to bring about the destruction of the world.

Another of our most popular characters, the vigilante known as the **Punisher**, is the star of several books of his own. THE PUNISHER trade paperback reprints the original PUNISHER limited series by **Steven Grant**, **Mike Zeck**, and **John Beatty**, the same team who collaborated on the brand new hardcover graphic novel THE PUNISHER: RETURN TO BIG NOTHING. Writer **Jo Duffy** and artist **Jorge Zaffino** are responsible for the graphic novel PUNISHER: ASSASSINS' GUILD, and there is yet another new PUNISHER hardcover, INTRUDER, by **Mike Baron** and **Bill Reinhold**.

Fans of the Punisher can take a look at the ancestor of all such vigilante crimefighters in the hardcover THE SHADOW: HITLER'S ASTROLOGER by **Denny O'Neil**, **Michael W. Kaluta**, and **Russ Heath**, in which this classic hero of radio, crime novels and comics fights Nazi agents and the occult. Another kind of urban crimefighting thriller can be found in WOLFPACK, the story of a team of inner city kids, by **Larry Hama**, **Ron Wilson**, **Kyle Baker**, and **Whilce Portacio**.

Many of our other super heroes are showcased in their own graphic novels. In THE AVENGERS: EMPEROR DOOM by **David Michelinie** and **Bob Hall**, the Marvel Universe's ultimate villain, Doctor Doom, at long last conquers the entire world, only to face a last ditch rebellion by the world's most powerful super hero team, the **Avengers**. **Doctor Doom** enlists the sorcerer, **Doctor Strange**, in an attempt to free his mother's soul from the demon, **Mephisto**, in the hardcover TRIUMPH AND TORMENT by **Roger Stern**, **Mike Mignola**, and **Mark Badger**. THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK battles against a takeover of SHIELD agents by a sinister intelligence in the graphic novel of the same name by **John Byrne** with **Kim DeMulder**. In CLOAK AND DAGGER: PREDATOR AND PREY, by the character's co-creator **Bill Mantlo**, with artists **Larry Stroman**, and **Al Williamson**, the two mysterious vigilantes combat a reincarnation of **Jack the Ripper**. The sorcerer supreme of Earth explores both a new mystical realm and his own psyche in DOCTOR STRANGE: INTO SHAMBALLA by **J.M. DeMatteis** and **Dan Green**. HERCULES: FULL CIRCLE by **Bob Layton** follows the legendary hero's exploits through the galaxies in an alternate future time. The birth of the child of **Black Bolt** and **Medusa**, of THE INHUMANS sets off a crisis in their society in the graphic novel by **Ann Nocenti**, **Bret Blevins** and **Al Williamson**. HAWKEYE battles villains and

falls in love with **Mockingbird** in the trade paperback written and drawn by **Mark Gruenwald**. MACHINE MAN, a robot with a human personality, awakes in the future to find himself involved in a revolution against a dictatorial society in the trade paperback by **Tom DeFalco, Herb Trimpe,** and **Barry Windsor-Smith**. The thunder god **Thor** stars in I WHOM THE GODS DESTROY. Inventor **Anthony Stark**, alias the armored hero, **Iron Man**, contends against his own alcoholism in THE POWER OF IRON MAN by **David Michelinie, John Romita, Jr.** and **Bob Layton. Iron Man** is also the star of CRASH, a graphic novel by **Mike Saenz** whose innovative artwork was done entirely on a Macintosh computer. And the greatest heroes of the Earth of another universe must confront the end of their world in the new SQUADRON SUPREME graphic novel by **Mark Gruenwald, Paul Ryan,** and **Al Williamson.**

There is also a large collection of Marvel graphic novels for sword and sorcery fans. The last recorded adventure of the life of **Robert E. Howard's Conan the Barbarian** is recounted in CONAN OF THE ISLES, adapted by **Roy Thomas** and **John Buscema** from the novel by **L. Sprague DeCamp** and **Lin Carter.** A new and original **Conan** tale is the subject of THE WITCH QUEEN OF ACHERON, by **Don Kraar, Gary Kwapisz** and **Art Nichols**. And there is the brand new CONAN THE BARBARIAN: THE SKULL OF SET by the team of **Doug Moench** and **Paul Gulacy**, who also collaborated on the science-fiction adventure found in the SIX FROM SIRIUS trade paperback. **King Kull**, another of **Howard's** creations, appears in a graphic novel by **Alan Zelenetz** and **Tony DeZuniga**. A swordswoman of ancient Roman times is the title character of MARADA THE SHE-WOLF, created by **Chris Claremont** and **John Bolton**. There is a saga of the Norse gods, TALES OF ASGARD: THE RAVEN BANNER, beautifully painted by **Charles Vess** and written by **Alan Zelenetz**. Dragons, samurai, and the American West all play a role in THE LAST OF THE DRAGONS by **Carl Potts, Dennis O'Neil,** and **Terry Austin**. The KILLRAVEN graphic novel by **Don McGregor** and **P. Craig Russell** continues the saga of this hero's rebellion against the Martian masters of an alternate 21st century Earth. Finally, THE DEATH OF GROO by **Mark Evanier** and **Sergio Aragonés,** chronicles the further adventures of the most dangerous—and stupidest—swordsman hero of them all.

Our many fantasy and science-fiction novels and trade paperbacks include SOMEPLACE STRANGE by **Ann Nocenti** and **John Bolton**, AX by **Ernie Colon**, and HEARTBURST by **Rick Veitch. Walter Simonson** wrote and illustrated STAR SLAMMERS, about a team of spacefaring mercenaries, while **Ron Wilson** and **John Byrne** collaborated on SUPER BOXERS, about a fighter in the future who opposes a tyrannical government. **Dave Cockrum**, co-creator of the "new" **X-Men**, comes up with another new super hero team in THE FUTURIANS. **J. Marc DeMattels** wrote three highly praised fantasy stories: MOONSHADOW, painted by **Jon J. Muth**, a science-fiction allegory; BLOOD, A TALE, a story of vampires painted by **Kent Williams**; and another, very different, and witty look at vampirism, GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE, illustrated by **Mark Badger.** And the newest of our science-fiction graphic novels is NEUROMANCER, an adaptation of **William Gibson's** landmark story by **Tom DeHaven** and **Bruce Jensen.**

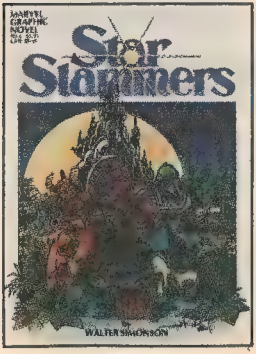
We also offer two of the greatest classics of horror fiction. The first, FRANKENSTEIN, is an unabridged version of **Mary Shelley's** original novel, lavishly illustrated by **Bernl Wrightson**, with an introduction by modern day horror master **Stephen King**. The second, DRACULA: A SYMPHONY IN MOONLIGHT AND NIGHTMARES, is an adaptation of **Bram Stoker's** novel written and painted by **Jon J Muth.**

The work of **Moebius**, France's most influential comics artist, is showcased in nearly a dozen different collections in graphic novel format. First, there are the six volumes of the MOEBIUS series, primarily made up of collections of his short science-fiction stories including such classics as "The Airtight Garage" and "The Long Tomorrow." Then there are the three volumes of THE INCAL trilogy, the saga of private eye **John DiFool** amidst a strange fantasy world, on which **Moebius**' collaborated with the film director **Alexandro Jodoronsky**. And finally there is a new series reprinting **Moebius**' adventures set in the 19th Century American West featuring the hero, LIEUTENANT BLUEBERRY.

Those who wonder how **Moebius** would draw classic Marvel characters should turn their attention to SILVER SURFER: PARABLE, on which he collaborates with **Stan Lee** himself. **Stan** also scripted the hardcover graphic novel, SILVER SURFER: JUDGEMENT DAY, told entirely through a striking series of full page illustrations by **John Buscema**.

War story buffs can read volumes one through three of THE 'NAM by **Doug Murray, Mike Golden**, and **John Severin**, or the two volumes of **Sam Glanzman**'s autobiographical tale of World War II, A SAILOR'S STORY. Soldiers of a very different kind, the modern day commandos of the G.I. JOE series, appear in G.I. JOE: SPECIAL MISSIONS by **Larry Hama** and **Herb Trimpe**. G.I. JOE: ORDER OF BATTLE, by **Larry Hama, Herb Trimpe**, and **Joe Delbeato**, is an illustrated handbook of G.I. JOE characters and lore. And NICK FURY VS. SHIELD, by **Bob Harras, Paul Neary,** and **Kim DeMulder**, pits high-tech commando **Fury** against his own futuristic spy organization.

We have also done movie adaptations in graphic novel format, including **George Lucas**'s WILLOW, as adapted by **Jo Duffy, Bob Hall,** and **Romeo Tanghal**, and the already classic WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT by **Dan Jippes, Don Ferguson**, and **Dan Spiegle. Roger Rabbit** returns in a brand new story in the new Marvel graphic novel, THE RESURRECTION OF DOOM.



Those of you who want to know everything you can about the history of our hundreds of heroes and villains should pick up the ten-volume trade paperback edition of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, written by **Mark Gruenwald** and yours truly. But there is no substitute for reading the classic original stories themselves, which are being made available in MARVEL MASTERWORKS. This is a hardcover series of volumes primarily reprinting classic stories from the early 1960s by Marvel founding father **Stan Lee, Jack Kirby,** and **Steve Ditko**, which created the Marvel style of adventure stories and in which so many of our greatest characters first appeared. To date there are three volumes of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, two apiece for THE FANTASTIC FOUR and THE AVENGERS, and a single volume reprinting the entire six issue run of the original HULK comic series. Two X-MEN volumes cover all the stories **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby** did featuring the original teammates (now known as **X-FACTOR**), while a new X-MEN MASTERWORKS volume reprints the first tales of the "new" **X-MEN** by **Len Wein, Chris Claremont,** and **Dave Cockrum**. Marvel history buffs should also keep a lookout for MARVEL MONSTERWORKS, a trade paperback collection of stories about **Fin Fang Foom** and other weird menaces from beyond that Marvel first published in the early 1960s. And don't miss FIGHTING AMERICAN, a reprinting of the legendary tongue-in-check adventure stories done in the 1950s by **Captain America**'s creators **Joe Simon** and **Jack Kirby.**

And this is just a list of all the books that are currently in print! There are many more that you might still be able to find at your local comics store, not to mention all the brand new ones already scheduled for release in 1990. So if you ever find yourself complaining that you don't have anything that's fun to read, just take a look at this list. You'll find plenty.

*—Peter Sanderson*

**Heads Up, True Believers! It's time for the fourth and final installment of Marvel A-Z. In the past three issues of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, we've zipped through the first 19 letters of the alphabet, previewing every Marvel series from THE AGENT to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. Now here comes the big wrap-up! For the thrill-packed conclusion of Marvel A-Z, we start off with a hot new series, STEELTOWN ROCKERS, and finish up with everyone's favorite mutants, the uncanny X-MEN!**

## STEELTOWN ROCKERS

Written by **Elaine Lee**, with art by **Steve Leialoha**. $1.00.

STEELTOWN ROCKERS is a slice of life drama about a group of kids in Steeltown, Indiana who decide to form their own rock band. The kids are **Johnny D, Jason, Terry, Adora,** and the **Johnson** brothers—**Michael** and **Eddie**. The series chronicles the struggles of the group to make it in the music world, as they encounter violence, racial tension, and romance. **Elaine Lee** is known for her wonderful skill at characterization, as demonstrated in Epic Comics' STARSTRUCK. **Steve Leialoha**, artist of SECRET WARS 2, will also do the covers. Commenting on STEELTOWN ROCKERS, assistant editor **James DiGiovanna** said, "It's a teen rock drama with punch. I think it's the finest thing we do."

## SUPER STARS

Written by **Mark Evanier** with art by **Dan Spiegle**. Ongoing regular Epic comic. $1.50.

A group of out-of-work professional writers gets together in Hollywood and forms their own detective agency. Why not? They're all mystery buffs, so they figure they'll make a living and have fun too. But maybe the behind-the-scenes Tinsel Town is even more warped than the scripts they used to write about it. Be sure to check out the double-sized first issue.

## THOR

Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. $1.00. Even with his duties as Editor in chief, **Tom DeFalco** can still find time to turn out outstanding stories every month in THOR. Issue #414 is the exciting conclusion to **Thor**'s "Acts of Vengeance" involvement, when he must take on **Ulik the Rock Troll**.

And, issue #415 is a special album issue which will also include the origin story of **Eric Masterson**—Thor's mortal identity. "This is a classic," said assistant editor **Mike Rockwitz**. "It contains information that has never been revealed before."

## TOMORROW KNIGHTS

Co-written by **Roy Richardson** and **Rod Whigham** with art by **Whigham**. A regular epic comic. $1.50.

The 21st century adventures of 18th century-type heroes-for-hire: The **Tomorrow Knights. John Starkweather** is the leader of this varied group, which possesses some impressive hardware and psychic abilities. Their world is one where the government functions only on a small level, and corporations control massive power camps. America has gone from a democracy to a technological-based society. The **Tomorrow Knights** are there for anyone in trouble, but their main client is the President of the United States himself. Or so they think!

## TRANSFORMERS

Written by **Simon Furman** with art by **Geoff Senior**. $1.00.

These are the all-new adventures of the **Transformers** by the team that made them a smash in Great Britain. Once the action starts, it doesn't stop. Issue #63-66 is a five-part story called the **"Matrix Quest"** in which the Transformers must recover the device that reconstitutes them when they are injured. In the process, they find themselves on a western-type planet, in the clutches of a **Moby Dick** monster, confronting a menacing space alien and finally battling the **Matrix** itself, which turns out to be a twisted object of death and destruction . . . or is it?

**José Delbo** pencils and **Dave Hunt** inks will also be featured in some of these stories. And look for the **Bill Sienkiewicz** cover on issue #65.

## WEB OF FORTUNE

Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **John Romita Sr.** A Marvel Graphic Novel.

Here's your chance to help **Spider-Man** out on one of his adventures! WEB OF FORTUNE is a first for Marvel—a story where you get to decide what happens next! At several points in the story, Spidey is faced with some tough choices. That's where you come in! You get to choose which move Spidey is going to make next! If you choose right, Spidey wins. If you choose wrong, it could mean death for the wall-crawler! The basic premise of the story is that Spidey is captured by **Arcade**, and must walk through a series of doors to escape. Will Spidey make the right choices? That's up to you! Featuring guest-appearances by the **Punisher**, the **Hulk**, and others.

## WEB OF SPIDER-MAN

Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk** and inked by **Keith Williams**. $1.00.

After coming down from the chaos of "Acts of Vengeance," **Gerry Conway** wants to do stories that center more around **Spider-Man** and the people he associates with—**Harry Osborn**, **Betty Brant**, and maybe even **Flash Thompson**. The main ongoing storyline involves **Osborn** and his decision to become the **Green Goblin**—only this time as a hero. "The question is if he will become a hero, or if he will be forced to stay a villain. And, will he remember that **Peter** is **Spider-Man**," said **Gerry**.

Also, **Betty Brant** finally starts to get her life back together after all the turmoil she's been through, and of course, the **Puma** is around in abundance. "I want to do a lot of stories featuring villains we don't see that often as well—like **Molten Man** and **Mr. Fear**," continued **Gerry**. "Basically I just like writing about **Spider-Man**—I've been doing it on and off for 20 years. His strange twists and my strange twists just seem to complement each other."

## WEST COAST AVENGERS

Written and penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Paul Ryan**. $1.00.

Issue #55 of WEST COAST AVENGERS wraps up the "Acts of Vengeance" storyline with a bang. What else would you expect from **John Byrne**? Both the **West Coast** and the **East Coast Avengers** are in this one, with **Loki** and **Thor** playing a big part. In issue #56, **Byrne** begins his **Dark Scarlet Witch** saga starring **Magneto** and **Tigra** as well. It seems **Tigra** is becoming more cat-like and less human. But why? Meanwhile, the **Scarlet Witch** is having somewhat of a nervous breakdown because of what has happened to the **Vision**, and she will never be the same again. **Immortus**, the master of time, is lurking in the background throughout the next few months of the book, and his storyline will soon take center stage.

"**Byrne** has been doing some of the most exciting stuff he's ever done," said assistant editor, **Len Kaminsky**. "Hes really suited for this book. And we can honestly say we put out one solid super hero comic here."

## WHAT IF . . .

Written by **Danny Fingeroth, Jim Valentino,** and others, and illustrated by various artists. $1.00.

WHAT IF. . . editor, **Craig Anderson** has gathered a group of stories that range from the cosmic to the personal. In issue #10, the question will be answered "What If. . . The **Punisher**'s family Hadn't Been Killed in Central Park?" written by **Doug Murray** with pencils by newcomer **Rik Levins** and inks by veteran **Bob McLeod**. This issue will also have a cover by **Mike Zeck**. Issue #11 features a more lighthearted story in "What If. . . The **Fantastic Four** All Had the Same Powers" with word and pictures by **Jim Valentino**. This issue is divided into four different stories that will be inked by **Steve Montano, Chris Ivy, Jeff Albrecht** and **Hilary Barta**. Issue #12 is more on the cosmic plane with "What If. . . the **X-Men** had Stayed in Asgard," by **Jim Valentino**.

**Craig** also says to look forward to more **WHAT If. . .** humor sections, including one complete humor issue. "What I like in a WHAT IF. . . story is the unexpected," said **Craig**, "And we hope to give the fans a lot of that!"

## WHAT THE—?!

A twice-a-year humor comic by various artists. 48 pages.

Hold that laughter no longer! WHAT THE—?! will be back—and soon—chock full of more of your favorite funnies.

According to assistant editor **Kelly Corvese**, the next issue will feature such stories as: "**Awful Flight,**" an 8-page **Alpha Flight** parody by **Marc McLaurin, Don Hudson** and **Jeff Albrecht**; "**Patsy Walker**" a **Hellcat** commentary on the 1950's romance comics and present day super hero comics, all by **Richard Howell**; "Marvel Classicworks" which explores the question of "What if classic novels where actually comic books?"; "**The Revengers** Meet the **Just-A-League**" (need we say more?) by **Scott Lobdell** and **Rurik Tyler**: and "Merry Mutant Melodies" from the **X-Men**'s Christmas celebration, written and drawn by **Kelly Corvese**. Whew! And if that's not enough, **Kelly** says the fake ads in this issue are a real riot!

## WILD CARDS

Written by **Louis Shiner** with art by **Bill Willingham**. A 48-page squarebound book. Four-issue limited series.

Based on the popular WILD CARDS books, this series is set up as an anthology that will be written by various prose writers. "Basically a virus comes to Earth and infects people, either killing them or giving them powers. The people are then called either **Aces** or **Jokers**," explained editor **Dan Chichester**. "There is also a series of strange bombings that are taking place in this distorted world."

**Jake Ackroyd**, a private investigator is hired by a mysterious doctor, and he finds out that a race of aliens sent the virus to weed out the weak and create super-soldiers. But who is bombing the city to pieces?

The four-issues make one epic story with cut-away segments by such fantasy literature writers as **George R. R. Martin, Melinda Snodgrass, John Miller, Roger Zelazney** and **Howard Waldrop**.

## WITCH

Written by **Pat Mills** with art by **Glen Fabry**. A three-issue bookshelf format comic, 48 pages.

This is the modern day adventure of an ancient witch—**Scatha**, who comes to New York to combat a horrible demon force that wants to take over the world. It's the struggle of **Mother Earth** and a power of pure evil, and in the midst of the battle, we learn about **Scatha**'s past and the fact that she has met her "demon" before. "It's a creepy horror adventure book," said editor **Dan Chichester**. "**Scatha** is one big, bad witch . . . sort of like "**Crocodile Dundee** meets the **Lost Boys**."

## WOLVERINE

Written by **Jo Duffy** and **Larry Hama** with art by **John Buscema** and **Gene Colan** among others. $1.00.

Issue #22 of WOLVERINE features a story about **Geist**'s celestial origins, as **Wolverine** continues his quest to save **Roughouse**, and a South American city. This is brought to you by the fantastic team of **Archie Goodwin, John Byrne,** and **Klaus Janson** . . . as is issue #23, the long-awaited conclusion of the **Geist** storyline began in issue #17.

Future issues of WOLVERINE will feature a variety of talents, including **Jo Duffy** and **Klaus Janson** and their story entitled "Tea Ceremony," in which **Wolverine** looks back to his past to clear up a mystery and ultimately must guard an ancient ceremonial tea service. **Duffy** will also be doing a story with **John Buscema**.

Later **Wolverine** gets the **Peter David** treatment in a story which the popular writer is working on with **Gene Colan**. This time **Logan** tries to help a street urchin, only to become involved in organized crime and get mixed up with a being of pure evil.

*Another first for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE! The original, unpublished cover from X-FACTOR #50.*

## X-FACTOR

Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove** and inked by **Al Milgrom**. $1.00.

**Louise Simonson** is stirring things up a bit in X-FACTOR as a bitter love triangle develops among **Angel, Bobby** and a mystery woman. "This is an interesting story in that it focuses on **Angel, Bobby** and the **Beast** rather than **Jean** and **Scott**," said assistant editor **Daryl Edelman**. "We're taking a break for a little character development."

**Daryl** also says that **Jon Bogdanove** will be doing the penciling honors starting with issue #52. If you want a preview, just look at his delightful work in POWER PACK and EXTERMINATOR.

## X-MEN

Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, inked by **Scott Williams** and **Joe Rubinstein**. A regular Marvel comic book, 22 pages. $1.00.

As of issue #258 of X-MEN, all of the group have been scattered to the four corners of the Earth. Some do not even remember who they are. It's up to **Wolverine, Psylocke** and **Jubilee** to search out the children of **Xavier**. Other than that, **Chris Claremont** doesn't have much in mind for the **X-Men**. . .aside from the destruction and revamping of the team, that is. "As for this new team," says **Chris** "We've already introduced one new member—**Jubilee**. Other characters may be developed until they can be considered new people, and in some cases, new characters *will* be introduced." **Chris** also promises to explain a little about the purpose of the **X-Men's** existence. "There is something unique that pertains to them. And something is about to happen in the Marvel Universe that only they can deal with." Aside from that mysterious revelation, **Chris** also promises to provide the fate of **Professor X**, the fate of **Magneto**, and the answer to the question of whether or not mutant-kind will cease to exist entirely.

## X-MEN CARTOON ADAPTATION

Written by **Danny Fingeroth**. A 64 page graphic novel. $10.95.

At last! The comic adaptation of the 30-minute animated X-Men pilot! **Kitty Pryde's** introduction to **Professor Xavier's** School for Gifted Children proves to be more exciting than she bargained for. No sooner does she arrive than she and the rest of **Professor X's** students—the mutant super heroes known as the **X-Men**—are plunged into danger. **Kitty** joins **Cyclops, Storm, Wolverine, Nightcrawler** and **Colossus** in a battle against the **Brotherhood of Evil Mutants**, who plan to wipe out non-mutant humanity. This book features full-color art taken from the animation cels.

# MARVEL UNIVERSE GIFTS

Haven't finished your Christmas shopping yet? Well, we've got just the thing for you! If you're struggling to find just the right gift for a loved one, or trying to think up one last item for a wish list, look no further!

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE has come through again. There is a plethora of products out there featuring many of your favorite Marvel heroes. The following is just a partial list of some of the many products available to the discriminating Marvelite.

## BISQUES, MODELS, FIGURINES

**THE MARVEL COLLECTION**—Authentic Limited Edition Ceramic Figurine Collector Series. **Wolverine** is the first in a series of high quality, hand-painted porcelain bisques that will include **Spider-Man, Captain America,** and the **Hulk.** Mounted on a cherry wood base, the figurine stands approximately six inches tall. Available now is Wolverine. He's dramatically crouched in a fighting stance. His claws are half-extended, as if in preparation to battle an approaching menace. The detailing is so precise that every muscle seems to ripple with power! Designed by **John Romita Sr.** and **Bob Budiansky,** only 15,000 bisques are available, making this a truly prized collector's item. Direct Sales only. $39.95.

**THE MARVEL UNIVERSE MODEL KIT SERIES. Spider-Man,** the **Punisher, Iron Man,** and the **Silver Surfer.** From Horizon, these are high quality, soft vinyl models that you paint and assemble. They stand approximately 12" high and attention to detail is so thorough, that each character's pose captures the essence of the hero. And there's good reason for that because all are based on designs from Marvel artists! **Iron Man** was designed by **Jackson Guice,** the **Punisher** by **Jim Lee, Spider-Man** by **Bob Budiansky,** and the **Silver Surfer** by **Vince Mielcarek.** Direct Sales and select model kit stores. $24.95 each.

**MARVEL SUPER HEROES PVC Figurines. Spider-Man, the Punisher, Captain America,** and **Wolverine!** The perfect stocking stuffer! These Poly-Vinyl Chloride (yep, that's what PVC means!) figurines stand 3" high. They're packed in sturdy poly bags to protect the figurines and snap-on accessories. We think they're great works of art—and no wonder! They're designed by **John Romita Sr.**! Direct Sales only. $4.00.

**MARVEL SUPER HEROES BENDABLE FIGURES.** The **Incredible Hulk, the Punisher, Spider-Man,** and **Wolverine.** Bend 'em, twist 'em, pose 'em—let your imagination run wild! These full-color 6" bendable figures from Just Toys are great fun—and a great bargain! Available at Direct Sales outlets, Toys "R" Us, and Lionel Kiddie City. $6.95 each.

## LITHOGRAPHS

**MARVEL SUPER HERO LITHOGRAPHS.** First Team Press has an acclaimed reputation for its collector's quality limited edition lithographs. And now it achieves greater distinction with its first diptych! It's **Wolverine** and **the Punisher** drawn by **Jim Lee.** Entitled "A Bad Night for Ninjas," each illustration is an individual print that together forms a stunning fight scene. Signed and numbered by the artist. The lithographs are available individually or as a set. The set of two prints is $95.00. Individual prints are $55.00. There is an additional postage and handling fee of $5.00 with each order. Please note that if you want a set of both lithographs, only the first 1,000 of the 2,500 sets are guaranteed matching numbers. The 17½" x 23½" prints are mailed flat in special envelopes which also contain framing instructions and a registration card. Available at select print galleries and comic book specialty stores or by mail from First Team Press, Inc., Box 994, Lewiston, NY 14092.

## COMPUTER GAMES

Paragon Software has created two hot video games for IBM pc's and compatables. The first is DR. DOOM'S REVENGE. **Captain America** and

**Spider-Man** must run the treacherous super villain filled maze of **Dr. Doom's** castle in order to recapture a nuclear missle hijacked by **Dr. Doom**. But barring their way are dangers galore, including **Electro**, the **Hobgoblin**, **Rhino**, and many others!

The second is MADNESS IN MURDERWORLD. **Magneto** and ***Arcade*** have united to destroy the **X-Men**. Trapped in **Arcade's** deadly Murderworld, the **X-Men** battle some of their most dangerous foes, including the **Sentinels**, the **Blob**, **Juggernaut**, the **Silver Samurai**, the **White Queen**, **Pyro**, **Wendigo** and **Mystique**.

Each game features different levels of difficulty from novice to expert, contains an original Marvel comic book designed for the game, a detailed manual with an introduction written by **Stan Lee**, and more! Available at computer specialty stores. **Dr. Doom:** $34.95. **X-Men:** $39.95.

## MUGS

Coffee drinkers, tea sippers, soda slurpers, heck, these things are great even for good ol' $H_2O$! They're dandy heavy porcelain mugs from Applause! **Iron Man**, **Thor**, **Spider-Man**, **Captain America**, **the Hulk**, and **the Thing** are depicted in all new, full-color action scenes drawn by **Al Milgrom**. Available in independent gift shops. $6.50 each.

## WATCHES

The **Punisher** skull and the **Spider-Man** symbol are proudly emblazoned on these high quality quartz movement watches. Direct Sales only. $25.00 each.

## PINS

**THE COLLECTOR'S PIN SET—The Avengers, the X-Men, Excalibur, Silver Surfer, the Punisher,** and **Spider-Man!** Each is a set of six exciting color pins attached to a mounting board. Featuring art by **Paul Ryan**, **Alan Davis**, **Rick Leonardi**, **Todd McFarlane**, **Mike Zeck**, **Klaus Janson**, **Jack Kirby**, and **John Byrne**. Direct Sales only. **The Avengers** set: $8.95. **X-Men**, **Excalibur**, **Silver Surfer**, **Punisher**, and **Spider-Man** sets: $7.99 each.

**CLOISONNE PINS**—From Planet Studios. **Spider-Man**, **Silver Surfer**, **Wolverine**, **She-Hulk**, **Iron Man**, **Storm**, **Hulk**, **Punisher**, and **Elektra**, logos, sound effects, burst balloons, and more! It's gotta be the most exciting collection of cloisonne pins ever! The people at Planet Studios have spared no expense in their production. To ensure that their pins are as close as possible to the characters, they've used actual scenes from the stories in their designs. Direct Sales only. Irresistibly priced from $4.95 to $5.99 each.

Okay, we bet you're thinking this is nothing more than the closing paragraph—that you can skip it and flip the page to get an advance look at the next installment of "The Marvel Age of Comics." But, wait—haven't you forgotten something? After all, you'd never buy a comic without a cover, would you? Of course not! It wouldn't be complete! Well, the same is true with one of these nifty Marvel goodies. It just wouldn't be right to bundle one of them up in ordinary gift wrap. To do it up proper and proud, you need Marvel Super Hero gift wrap. And thanks to the folks at Hallmark Cards, you can! Available at all Hallmark stores, each roll of the Marvel Super Hero gift wrap costs a mere $2.29, and it's loaded with full-color illustrations of all of your favorite super heroes! Now that you know what to buy and where to buy it what are you waiting for? Start shopping! And have a happy holiday season.

***—Dwight Jon Zimmerman***

But wait! there's a lot of stuff already available that you shouldn't forget such as . . .

From TSR, the Marvel Super Heroes "Role playing Games: Deluxe City and Advanced Set, and the 3-Part Role Playing Game: Marvel Super Heroes-Cosmos Cubed (Part 1), Ragnarok and Roll (Part 2), and the Left Hand of Eternity (Part 3). And volumes 1-5 of the GAMER'S HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE.

From Comic Images: the **Wolverine** watch; **Todd McFarlane**, **John Byrne**, **Mike Zeck**, **Arthur Adams**, **X-Men**, **Excalibur**, Heroic Origins, and Colossal Conflict trading cards; **Wolverine**, **Spider-Man**, and **Punisher** hats; **Spider-Man** and **Hulk** T-shirts featuring original **Todd McFarlane** art and Punisher T-shirts and sweatshirts featuring original **Mike Zeck** art; T-shirts and sweatshirts featuring illustrations and covers of **Wolverine**, **the X-Men**, **Spider-Man**, **the Punisher**, **Classic X-Men**, **Silver Surfer**, **Excalibur**, **Fantastic Four**, and **Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD**; and the 1990 Marvel Universe Wall Calendar.

From Talking Tops: Marvel Comicsaurus, **Silver Surfer**, **X-Men**, **X-Factor**, **Wolverine**, **Excalibur**, **New Mutants**, and **Havok** and **Wolverine** T-shirts.

And from Collector's Marketing, the Comic Book Collecting Kit—containing a guide for the care and collecting of comics, 25 plastic comic book bags, a special copy of the Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide, a comic book storage box, Marvel super heroes poster, and an assortment of 15 different Marvel comics. Just what the serious beginning collector needs to start his comic book collecting out right.

Pictured here are the Marvel Super-Heroes bendable figures from Just Toys. From left to right (as if you didn't know) are Hulk, Spider-Man, Wolverine, and the Punisher.

# THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS— 1980
## PART FIVE

This month we'll wrap up our look at the 1980s Marvels, considering the one-of-a-kind books, the cult characters and unique series that make Marvel history so diverse. One series was truly one-of-a-kind: SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP published only one issue in midyear, the tale of the **Hate-Monger, Arnim Zola,** and the **Red Skull** re-creating the Cosmic Cube, and taking a horrifying revenge on their former fuhrer, **Adolf Hitler**!

Certainly no one in comics published anything more unique than the magazine version of HOWARD THE DUCK, which in 1980 included its most bizarre parody, "Ducktective Comics!" The unforgettable cover featured **Howard** and **Bev Switzler** as a strangely recognizable dynamic duo. Another parody issue presented "Playduck," the men's magazine of Howard's homeworld, replete with a **John Byrne**–rendered centerfold—something to really take a gander at! The Christmas issue featured acidic satire as Howard tussled with **Greedy Killerwatt** and his North Pole mutants, bent on achieving household nuclear power at any price. And then Howard faced the vampire **Drakula** (pronounced "Drake-ula," of course), **Captain Americana,** and the ruthless **Kong Lomerate**! **Man-Thing** returned for a guest appearance, and Bev even paid a visit with Howard to Duckworld, where she learned what a fearsome fate it is to be stranded in a world she never made! Sadly, Howard learned he himself no longer really belonged on Duckworld, but hey, with a woman like Bev to cheer him up, how long could he be blue? (Are you reading this, **Lea Thompson**?)

HOWARD THE DUCK's back-up script, generated by editor **Lynn Graeme,** was the offbeat "Street People," the chronicle of street jugglers and how they grew. Graeme wrote a far more sinister back-up strip, though, in "Lilith," featured in the TOMB OF DRACULA magazine. Featuring **Frank Miller** art, **Lilith** exhibited a more compassionate aspect of vampirism than her famous father, whose adventures, as chronicled by **Marv Wolfman, Jim Shooter, Roger MacKenzie,** and the ever-classic **Gene Colan,** took him across Europe and America and even back through time, closing the book with a particularly brutal look at Dracula during the Civil War.

While both Howard and Drac met their publishing makers in 1980, one other magazine is still going strong today, setting the record for continuous publication of a black-and-white comics mag! It's THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, of course, which adapted **Conan** novels in multi-part format as only **Roy Thomas** and **John Buscema** could do. Highlight of the year was the adaptation of CONAN THE LIBERATOR, by **L. Sprague de-Camp** and **Lin Carter,** but Hyboriophiles were also thrilled as Conan lost his soul and quested to retrieve it, as he defeated the curse of the Eye of Erlik, and ascended the throne of Aquilonia!

Howard the Duck's old buddy, the MAN-THING, kept shambling through his own color comic, but in some fairly unusual places—the dawn of the year saw him transported to the Himalayas, battling the somewhat abominable **Yeti**! Magic brought him back to the Everglades, where his supporting cast widened for **Sheriff John Daltry** and the beautiful, feisty **Barbie Bannister**—whose beauty and feistiness didn't stop them all from being kidnapped by **Captain Fate**! Before that, though, **Mordo** used Man-Thing as a tool to battle **Dr. Strange,** in a tale that crossed over into—

DR. STRANGE, of course! Doc and **Jennifer Kale** stopped Mordo from seizing control of the Nexus of All Realities, and the presence of a certain muck-monster helped out as well. Stephen Strange defeated other Mordo schemes: the transformation of **Lord Phyffe** into **Azrael, Angel of Death,** and a small army of specters from his past conjured by his oldest foe. **Clea** defeated demons of the **N'Garai** and wraiths of **Dormammu,** while her lover learned the origin of **Wong** while exploring the realm of the **Shadowqueen, Shialmar**!

In the company of the **Hulk** and **Sub-Mariner,** Dr. Strange saw still more action in DEFENDERS, as the three titans liberated the other-dimensional Tunnelworld from the evils of **Ogeon, Ytitnedion,** and the **Unnamed**! Along the way they made

friends with the alien creatures, **Aerolka** and **Xhoohx**, and finally freed both Tunnelworld and themselves by a perilous journey into the very mind of the Hulk! Back on Earth, the **Wasp** and the teenaged **Dian** (from the old OMEGA THE UNKNOWN) battled the **Mutant Force** and **Mandrill**, whose powers had enslaved **Hellcat** and **Valkyrie**! Atlantis and Wakanda traded blows, as **T'Challa** and **Namor** challenged each other's pride, and the Panther joined Hellcat and Valkyrie in their search for vengeance on the Mandrill, whose theft of vibranium created the quietest riot ever seen in Times Square. The last battle against the Mandrill even rang in the Man Without Fear, **Daredevil**! Meanwhile, the seeds of the Defenders' dissolution were being planted: the mysterious **Tribunal** held its first inquest—**Nighthawk** was indicted for income tax evasion—and the team lost its headquarters and moved to Montclair, New Jersey, home of Patsy (Hellcat) Walker's late mother.

The Hulk also popped up in WHAT IF . . . ?, as the barbarian hero of **Jarella**'s world! WHAT IF—? asked further questions, of course—What if **Spider-Man** had never become a crime fighter? His show business career led to the death of **Daredevil**, and a criminal career for none other than **J. Jonah Jameson**! What if the **Avengers** fought the **Kree-Skrull War** without **Rick Jones**? Rick died, but the **Supreme Intelligence** evolved to become a 2001-like **Starchild**! What if the **Invisible Girl** married the Sub-Mariner? They had a son, like any healthy married couple, but **Reed** didn't take it at all well. What if **Dr. Doom** had become a hero? He married **Valeria**, but lost her to **Mephisto** through his incorrigible pride. And what if Spider-Man had married **Gwen Stacy**? Their wedded bliss would be scourged when JJJ exposed Pete's secret identity, turning him into a fugitive. A back-up series in WHAT IF . . . ? told "Untold Tales of the Marvel Universe," including the origin of the first **Celestial Host**, and the first **Eternals**.

Speaking of untold tales, the only series we haven't recounted for 1980 is the **Doug Moench/Mike Zeck** classic, MASTER OF KUNG FU. Nowadays, mini-series within a regular series are all the rage, but Moench pioneered the concept with **Shang-Chi**, who started 1980 in the midst of the 7-part epic, "Warriors of the Golden Dawn!" Shang and **Black Jack Tarr** tracked **Fu Manchu** to the jungles of the Amazon, while **Clive Reston** and **Leiko Wu** uncovered more of his schemes in Morocco. The serial presented Shang-Chi at his grimmest, resolving that he would kill his father rather than let his evil continue on the Earth. But wildcards like **Fah Lo Suee, Zaran,** and the mind-controlled **Maru** made any action unpredictable, and Shang's final showdown with his dad ended with Fu's death in an aerial explosion. Shang-Chi returned home to quell gang violence in Chinatown, free **Melissa Greville**'s sister, **Mandy**, from a cult, and travel from Scotland to the Caribbean to defeat the espionage outlaws, **Samisdat** and **Agent Syn**!

And that wraps up the first year of the decade! Join us next month as we look at 1981, Marvel's twentieth anniversary!

*—Brian Nelson*

## MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

WHAT? You didn't *know* there was one more issue of SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP? You *never heard* of the TOMB OF DRACULA magazine? You *can't live* without seeing the portrayal of Montclair, New Jersey, in THE DEFENDERS? Here's what these back issues are likely to cost you at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #19. But remember: this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

| | CONDITION Good | Fine | Mint |
|---|---|---|---|
| ■ **DEFENDERS** | | | |
| 79-90 | | .50 | 1.00 |
| ■ **DR. STRANGE** | | | |
| 39-44 | | .60 | 1.20 |
| ■ **HOWARD THE DUCK** (magazine) | | | |
| 3, 5-8 | | .30 | .60 |
| 4 (**Beatles, Elvis, Kiss**) | | .40 | .80 |
| ■ **MAN-THING** | | | |
| 2-7 | | .25 | .50 |
| ■ **MASTER OF KUNG FU** | | | |
| 84-95 | | .30 | .60 |
| ■ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** (magazine) | | | |
| 47-50 | .50 | 1.50 | 3.00 |
| 51-58 | .25 | .75 | 1.50 |
| ■ **SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP** | | | |
| 17 | | .50 | 1.00 |
| ■ **TOMB OF DRACULA** (magazine) | | | |
| 3-6 | .35 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| ■ **WHAT IF . . . ?** | | | |
| 19-24 | .30 | .90 | 1.80 |

# GO AHEAD... MAKE MY LUNCH!

**Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016**

**Attention correspondents:**
**All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!**

**Yeah, that's right. We're tough. Real tough. Just like this month's letter column title. Grr. But y'know, because we're so tough, we're not afraid to say "thanks" to the guy who came up with our title, Paul Vescera of Daly City, CA.**

**Of course, that doesn't mean that we don't still need a new title for this column every single month. So if you think you've got the guts, why not send in a title of your own? If we use it, we'll even plaster your name all across this space, just like Paul's. So take a shot, pal. Whatsamatter—scared?**

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

When was the last time a super hero saved the world? I only ask this question because all super heroes seem to do nowadays is defend themselves against their enemies. First, the **Avengers** fight the **Masters of Evil** whose sole reason for existence was to pulp Avengers. Then, they are kidnaped by Olympian gods out of revenge for what they have done to **Hercules**. Then, they fight robots who primarily wish to pulp them. Then, they fight **Nebula** who want to take them over. Then, they disband just when the world needs saving during Inferno. Having been reformed, they do a bit of world saving before being attacked by the **Lava Men** (out of revenge, once again) and then they rush to save **Gilgamesh**'s life before the Acts of Vengeance begins.

I could make up a list of this sort for virtually any individual or team of super heroes. No one bothers to do any good deeds anymore; they are all far too busy exacting personal vendettas on super villains. The same goes for super villains. What I cannot understand is why the villains waste all their time fighting heroes when they could be getting filthy rich committing crime.

Edmund Cargill Thompson
15 Rochester Rd.
Camden Town, London
England

**Well, if you'll recall, Edmund, Nebula wanted to take over the Avengers so that she could rule all time and space, but we understand**

your point. We hope the Earth-shaking Atlantis Attacks saga that ran through this year's annuals was more to your liking. But, if a threat to the entire surface world isn't enough for you, then you might want to check out the SQUADRON SUPREME Graphic Novel, in which the Squadron fights a menace that could spell the end of their universe. And since the Squadron lives in a world outside the Marvel Universe, there's no guarantee that they're going to win!

Dear Supreme Marvel Zombies,

I have several intriguing questions to ask you guys:

1.) On average, when a comic book artist does art for a particular comic book, how much does the artist get for his/her work?

2.) Does an artist get paid on a page-by-page basis or for the entire art for that issue?

3.) Are comic book artists considered independent contractors, since they supply their own tools for drawing, or regular employees, or what?

4.) How does Marvel pick a person to draw a particular comic book?

Paul Vescera
346 Hillside Blvd.
Daly City, CA 94014

Taking your questions in order, Paul:

1 & 2.) Pencilers and Inkers are paid by the page, with a beginning rate of $40.00 per page for pencilers, and $35.00 per page for Inkers. These figures increase as the artist gains more experience and popularity.

Top pencilers can earn well over $100.00 per page, and that figure doubles if they handle the inking chores, as well. With the average comic book coming in at roughly 22 pages, those page rates are nothing to sneeze at! Cover artists are paid more, since covers play a very important role in catching peoples' eyes and attracting new readers to the book.

In addition to the basic page rate, artists also share in royalty payments with writers and editors. These payments are based on how well their comic sells. The creative team receives additional money if their work is reprinted. And the artist and inker are given their orginal art back (divided between them), which many artists choose to sell to produce even more income!

Although comics pay well, a newcomer may have to struggle for years before landing a regular assignment. But once an artist is well-established and in-demand, he can make a very comfortable living in comics.

3.) There are two kinds of artists we deal with here at Marvel: freelancers, who could be considered a type of independent contractors, and staff artists, who work full-time exclusively for us.

4.) It's up to the individual editors to choose the artist they feel is most suitable for a job. Often an artist will request a specific book or character he likes to draw, and we try to accommodate these requests whenever possible. The main thing is matching each artist's own unique style with the type of book he is best suited for.

Say, is that a 24-karat gold, bonus insert in this very issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE? Nope, it's something even better—the snazzy yellow background that announces our LETTER OF THE MONTH! Just like every month, we've burrowed through our mountain of mail to select a letter that we think will be of particular interest to the rampaging hordes of Marveldom and placed it right here in this special place of honor. In fact, we have a hunch that this issue's Letter of the Month will be of even more interest than usual to anybody who's sent a letter to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

Dear Marvel,

A few days ago, I was complaining to my mother because one of my friends had just gotten his letter printed and I was very jealous of him. She said that I should write a letter to a comic book that I really liked, and I would probably get my letter printed because, she said, "You're just as good a writer as your friend is."

I said, "You're crazy, I would never get my letter printed! MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE probably gets over seventy-five letters every month! Getting a letter printed is nearly impossible!"

She said, "Oh, come on. I bet you fifteen dollars that MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE gets less than sixty letters a month."

"You're on," I said.

I'll get to the point. How many letters does MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE get, and what does it take to get a letter printed? If I win my bet against my mom, I promise I'll spend every cent of the money I get on Marvel Comics. Until Mystique has an identity crisis, Make Mine Marvel!

Scott Judd
2919 Redwood Circle
Fullerton, CA 92635

You win your bet, Scott! As a rough estimate, we'd guess that MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE pulls in about a hundred or so letters each month. And that's not counting contest entries, Marvel Correspondents requests, and reply forms for the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes! That's why we can't reply to every letter personally, let alone print them all here.

But your mom's a wise woman nonetheless, Scott. She's absolutely right when she says that you shouldn't let the odds stand in your way. Whether we print them or not, we really do read every letter we receive, and if you've got something to say, we'd love to hear it!

As far as what it takes to get a letter printed in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, well, it basically comes down to this: We only have a limited amount of space, so we have to select those letters that we think a lot of people will be interested in. Here are a few tips to help improve your chances:

1.) *Ask a question.* Because we like to put as much information as possible into this column, most of the letters we print are ones that ask questions about one of our characters or an upcoming project. But you'll probably have a better shot it you ask a question such as "When is that new LONGSHOT Limited Series coming out?" than if your letter starts out, "Remember back in JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #104, when Thor parted his hair on the left side of his head . . .?"

2.) *Make us laugh.* From time to time, we'll publish a letter for no other reason than it's pretty darn funny. Hey, we're a wacky bunch; what can we say?

3.) *Keep it short.* Because our space is limited, we simply can't print overly lengthy letters, and we do try to avoid editing our mail (even if it's just for space reasons) whenever possible. You're probably best off limiting your letter to one page, typed, or handwritten.

3.) *Enclose your complete name and address.* Like it says at the top of our letters page each month, *all* letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withold that info upon request. 'Nuff said.

5.) *Type or write neatly.* After all, we can't print it if we can't read it, right?

Naturally, even following all of

**these rules won't guarantee that a letter will get printed, but it'll sure help its chances. So what are you waiting for? Get cracking!**

Dear MARVEL AGErs,

Will you ever bring back **Coyote?** I really enjoyed his Epic Comics series. Also, when will you print the **Werewolf by Night** saga in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS? Will you give Irving Forbush a one-shot comic book of his own? Please!

Charles Cook
(Address withheld by request)

**Sorry, Charles, there are no plans just now for a new COYOTE series. But while the near future might not be bringing any IRVING FORBUSH hardcover first editions either, the Way-Out Wonder still pops up now and then in the pages of the decidedly droll WHAT THE—? And of course, you can also find him every month on the cover of this very magazine.**

**The Werewolf by Night serial, written by Len Kaminski and penciled by James W. Fry III, is all finished and ready to go—and just wait till you see it! It's scheduled to appear next year, beginning in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #54. And considering that it not only pits the Werewolf against one of Doctor Strange's most twisted foes but also introduces a dramatic *new* transformation for the lupine luminary, you won't want to miss it!**

**Looks like that's about it for yet another month. But before we launch into a rousing chorus of "Happy Trails" and head for home, let's take a minute for another heaping helping of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS, those friendly folks from far and wide who are looking for people with whom to exchange cards, letters, and maybe even a Federal Express package or two. So drop one or two of 'em a line. You've got nothing to lose but your solitude!**

*Here's a sneak peak at the upcoming WEREWOLF BY NIGHT serial from MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. Art by James Fry.*

## MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS

**Logan Xevious**
**12423 Cascade Way**
**Nevada City, CA 95959**
**Age: 15**
**Favorites: X-MEN, GROO, ALL PUNISHER titles.**

**Micheal Dion**
**26 Ramsey St.**
**Fredericton, New Brunswick**
**E3B-6W9 CANADA**
**Age: 14**
**Favorites: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SEMPER FI, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**

**Eric Crabtree**
**1923 S. Redbank Rd.**
**Evansville, IN 47712**
**Age: 24**
**Favorites: X-MEN, EXCALIBUR, WEST COAST AVENGERS**

**Peter Jones**
**4325 Bending River Trail**
**Lilburn, GA 30247**
**Age: 16**
**Favorites: EXCALIBUR, WOLVERINE, SILVER SURFER**

**Robert W. Johnson**
**3494 W. 94th St.**
**Cleveland, OH 44102**
**Age: 27**
**Favorites: ALL AVENGERS titles, FANTASTIC FOUR, IRON MAN**

**Angela Levasseur**
**P.O. Box 815**
**Rockland, ME 04841**
**Age: 16**
**Favorites: THE 'NAM, GROO, ELF QUEST**

**Eric Lehtinen**
**14128 NE 72**
**Redmond, Washington 98052**
**Age: 13**
**Favorites: X-MEN, EXCALIBUR, WOLVERINE**

**Marcel Breda**
**Westhove 10**
**1275 DD Huizen**
**THE NETHERLANDS**
**Age: 18**
**Favorites: X-MEN, SILVER SURFER, DR. STRANGE**

**Mike Martinez**
**1901 E Ave. NW**
**Cedar Rapids, IA 52405**
**Age: 12**
**Favorites: X-MEN, WOLVERINE, SECRET WARS**

**Jeff Lewonczyk**
**186 Adrian**
**Newington, CT 06111**
**Age: 13**
**Favorites: EXCALIBUR, SHE-HULK, CLOAK AND DAGGER**

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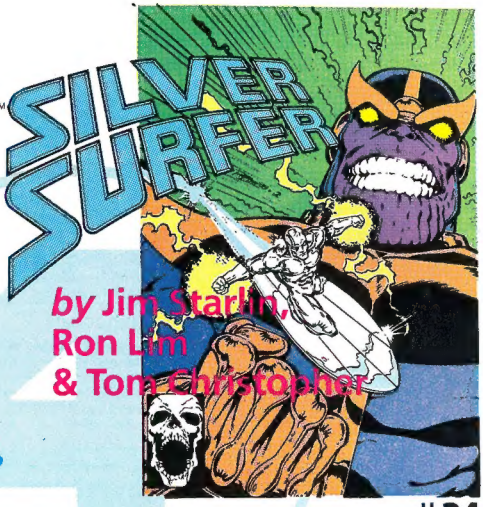
# Backs to the Future!




*by* Jim Starlin, Ron Lim & Tom Christopher

#34

# Fronts to the Past!!

*by* Walt Simonson

#337

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